



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the Gospel this weekend, the rich man approaches Jesus to find out how to inherit eternal life. This should make us stop and listen, since this is the goal of all our lives – to enter into eternal life! Jesus tells him to follow the commandments. The man says he has done it, but Jesus, loving him, challenges him:

You are lacking one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me. (Mark 10: 21)

To follow Jesus is a challenge. He is always calling us higher. He always says, “There’s more.” There is the temptation to be discouraged by this, since it might seem like we will never measure up. But these are the words of someone who loves us so much. He calls us higher because He knows this is the only way to happiness – and He wants our happiness *even more*

than we want it!

The man goes away sad, because it seemed too much. Will we walk away as well? Jesus invites us to follow His commandments. There is more, though: we must also learn to cling only to Him (not to our wealth, our own sense of security in this world, but to trust in Him) and then to follow Him.

Jesus invites us to be His DISCIPLE.

What is a disciple? A disciple is different from a fan. A fan likes a person or a team. A fan knows a lot about them. A fan talks about how much they like that person or team. A follower – a disciple – on the other hand, spends their time and energy with the master learning his ways. The disciple seeks to *become like* the master. This is hugely different!

Jesus invites the rich man to be His disciple: to follow Him, to spend time with Him, to learn from Him, to become like Him. Jesus is inviting you as well. He so wants the *best* for you! He wants your happiness! He wants your fulfillment! He knows that this will not come from relying on the things of this world, but, rather, by trust in Him, by becoming like Him.

Discipleship is hard, though. It requires giving up our own way of thinking so that we can adopt the thinking of the master. The good news, though, is that our Master is not another limited human with only His perspective of things. He is God. He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth, of all things visible and invisible. His perspective is the only perspective that is totally in alignment with the fullness of reality. This means that we can trust Him to lead us in right ways. It takes surrender, though. Will we surrender to God?

Next weekend, we’ll be having our Parish Mission: DISCIPLES ON A MISSION. Tony Brandt and Chris Stewart of Casting Nets Ministries (www.castingnetsministries.com) will be coming to speak to us about how to grow in our discipleship. The first night of the mission, Sunday, October 17, we’ll hear about “The Challenge of Discipleship.” **I can’t encourage you enough to come to this incredible Mission!!!** They are engaging, funny and deep. They will challenge us, but also give us practical ways of getting from “here to there.” The Mission runs Sunday, October 17 through Tuesday, October 19 from 7:00-8:30pm. Sunday will have a free dinner beforehand in the Parish Center (6:00pm – please sign up by Wednesday, 10/13), and childcare will be provided (sign up ahead in the office). Join us for this life-changing Mission!