

You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them, 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We have left everything and followed you,' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land – not without persecutions – now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

TRUE WISDOM

Wisdom is a gift that many of us aspire to but it is found not only by desiring it but choosing it in the midst of the complexity and richness of our daily lives. The writer of the book of Wisdom speaks as one who longs for understanding, who sees it as the true and lasting source of wealth in a human life. This openness and longing for wisdom find concrete expression in the Gospel where the rich man, who has been faithful to the commandments, is still unsatisfied and searching for more. He is wise enough to recognise in Jesus someone who is a true teacher. That his face falls at the words of Jesus shows he is also aware that he has not yet arrived at the point where he has the inner freedom to take the next step.

The letter to the Hebrews speaks of the word of God as a two-edged sword, able to cut in both directions and uncover what lies deep within us. For the rich man, Jesus' word challenges him not on what he has already done but on what he is yet to do. He is well intentioned but is not yet as free as Jesus wants him to be. As the Gospel proceeds it is clear that while his contemporaries and the disciples saw wealth as a sign of God's blessing Jesus was more concerned about the ways in which our possessions can hold us back from a whole hearted commitment to the gospel message.

Christopher Monaghan CP



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

10 OCTOBER 2021

FIRST READING

Wis 7:7-11

A reading from the book of Wisdom
In comparison to wisdom, I held riches as nothing.
I prayed, and understanding was given me;
I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.
I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones;
compared with her, I held riches as nothing.
I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer,
for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand,
and beside her silver ranks as mud.
I loved her more than health or beauty,
preferred her to the light,
since her radiance never sleeps.
In her company all good things came to me,
at her hands riches not to be numbered.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 89:12-17. R. v. 14

R. Fill us with your love, O Lord,
and we will sing for joy!

1. Make us know the shortness of our life / that we may gain wisdom of heart. / Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? / Show pity to your servants. **R.**
2. In the morning, fill us with your love; / we shall exult and rejoice all our days. / Give us joy to balance our affliction / for the years when we knew misfortune. **R.**
3. Show forth your work to your servants; / let your glory shine on their children. / Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: / give success to the work of our hands. **R.**

SECOND READING

Heb 4:12-13

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews
The word of God discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more



finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 10:17-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Go and sell whatever you have and come follow me.

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness;