

Formed in Prayer

Let us be still
and ask the Holy Spirit to be with us

Dear Father,
Be with us as we pray.
Open our ears to hear your Word in the Gospel.
Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.
Send your Holy Spirit to inspire and sustain us in our mission.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Gospel

Mark 10:17-30

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; 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.'

*What words or phrases struck you in Sunday's Gospel reading?
What might God be saying to you in and through the Gospel?*

Reflection

Do you know anyone who is wealthy? Do you think of yourself as wealthy? Never thinking of myself as wealthy, I've often thought it must be hard to hear this Gospel if you are wealthy.

Each year Credit Suisse produces a Global Wealth Report showing how money is distributed around the world. According to Credit Suisse's 2020 Global Wealth Report, the top 1% of households globally owned around 44 percent of all personal wealth, while the bottom 50 percent owned only one percent. So how rich do you have to be to make it into the 1% club? Well, look in the mirror because it's very likely you're already in, or one day will be in, the 1%.

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Credit Suisse reported that an individual net worth of \$1,295,825 will make you among the world's 1% richest people. Since 2020, the wealth of the average Australian household has surged past \$1 million and the gap between the rich and the average Australian continues to widen, with low-income families not seeing any increase in their net worth for more than a decade. Australia is now home to 1.8 million millionaires. Almost one in 10 Australian adults are now US dollar millionaires.

So as we come to know and proclaim the love of Jesus, we must wrestle with his challenge and respond to his invitation, "Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor; then come, follow me."
(Greg Wilson, CSYMA Board and Manager)

Prayer

God of Justice,

Open our eyes

to see you in the face of those in poverty.

Open our ears to hear you

in the cries of those exploited.

Embolden us as advocates

of those whose voices go unheard

Remind us that what we do for the poor,

we do to you.

Amen.