March 4, 2019

Scripture

Mark 10: 17-27
As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother." He replied and said to him, "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." At that statement, his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God!"
The disciples were amazed at his words.
So Jesus again said to them in reply,
"Children, how hard it is to enter the Kingdom of God!
It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle.

Our Scripture Reflection

Please note: Jesus never condemns wealth and possessions. He judges the heart of a person towards their wealth and possessions as we see in today’s Gospel reading. The problem with the rich young man is that he is possessed by his possessions. And while Jesus will point out the man’s problem, He will not fix it for him because He respects the man’s free will. How sad it is that the man walks away from his salvation!

Food for your Journey

One man who did take the "cure" offered by Jesus, who took up the challenge to divest himself of a remarkable fortune, was a quiet, virtually unknown New Jersey Irishman. Charles F. Feeney, however, just happened to be worth somewhat over $600 million. Committed to living a simpler, less consumptive lifestyle, this rich man gradually, almost furtively, gave away $600 million without anyone knowing about it. All he kept for himself was one half of one percent of his entire estate for his "old age." Feeney himself owns no house, no car, and lives a simple, unremarkable lifestyle.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, I have been blessed in so many incredible ways, especially with the simple gifts of time and talent and faith. Help me to use the gifts I have to assist those who are in need. In doing so may I give You the glory. Amen