August 20, 2019

Scripture

Matthew 19: 23-30

Jesus said to his disciples:
"Amen, I say to you, it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the Kingdom of heaven.
Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God."

When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and said, "Who then can be saved?"
Jesus looked at them and said, "For men this is impossible, but for God all things are possible."
Then Peter said to him in reply, "We have given up everything and followed you. What will there be for us?"
Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me, in the new age, when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory, will yourselves sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Our Scripture Reflection
Please note: Jesus never condemns a rich person. Never. What He challenges is the attitude of one’s heart towards one’s possessions. Are possessions used to meet true needs and shared with the poor for the glory of God? Do we show gratitude to God for what we have? Some people, tragically, are possessed by their possessions. They have surrendered their freedom for stuff.

Food for your Journey

There's an old cartoon that depicts two bums standing on a sidewalk. A rich man walks by, on the way to his fancy limousine. A uniformed chauffeur is holding the car door open for him. One bum is saying to the other: “There, but for me, go I.”

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, I am profoundly grateful for the many gifts You give me in this life. May I learn to distinguish between what I need and what I want. May I use all that I have for Your greater glory. Amen