

# Small Groups

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## *Discussion Questions for September 27, 2015 – Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

“Come now, you rich...” St James begins the second reading with this address. So, who are the rich? Is it just “them”? Those who have yachts and run multinational companies? The movie stars and football players? The politicians jetting around the world? Could this reading be that specific? In this reading, James is challenging all of us to heed these warnings. In our own way, we are given “wealth” that we may not be sharing for various reasons. We may have a certain talent that would fit in very nicely with a need in the parish or at work, but we don’t step forward. We hesitate; we don’t share the gift we were given by God; so it “rusts.” But these admonitions of James might still apply to our “wealth” of goods or money. Most of us don’t have money like those mentioned above, but what we do have, we received from God through work. But is it ours or his? Only we can make the decision. We have to look into our own hearts to decide how much we want and how much we need. Someone else can’t do it for us. Just like the free will God gives us to love him or leave him, he also allows us to give or not give. What power he gives us!

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Discuss the paragraph above and discuss areas that you might be able to share your “wealth” more.
2. The Gospel speaks about causing these “little ones” to sin. We know from other reading that this isn’t just about small humans; it’s also about those who are “little” in their faith and walk with Jesus. So what ways can be encourage those “little” ones to come to Jesus?
3. In prayer this week, say your one minute Hail Mary and Our Father, then ask for two things:
  - a. Pray for God to reveal to you a gift or talent that he has given to you for the welfare of others.
  - b. Pray that God gives you an opportunity to use that gift or talent this week.
4. The Gospel has some strong words about removing parts of our body that cause us to sin. Of course, God doesn’t want us to mutilate our bodies, Jesus is using hyperbole to make a crucially important point. We should not put anything in the way of our love of God. Can you talk about any things now or in your past that were impediments to faith that you were able to overcome?

### **Closing Prayer**

God, almighty Father and creator of the world, have mercy on us. Lord of all, who so loved us that you made us in your likeness and image, have mercy on us. God, who even gave your only Son up to be crucified for our salvation, hear our prayer. In your abundant love, you give us Jesus who presents on your behalf all things for our good: let us see and believe. Through your overflowing love and compassion, give us the ability to love as you. Out of your unlimited stores of grace, enable us to forgive and give like you. Though we fail you often and ignore you to our detriment, we rest in the assurance that you will never abandon us and will carry us to the end. We are so grateful for your mercy and desirous of your love. Thank you Jesus for all that you are and all that you want us to be. We ask all of this in Jesus’s name, amen.