

Small Groups

Discussion Questions for October 11, 2015 – Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus told the rich man in today's Gospel that he was lacking one thing. Yet Jesus doesn't tell us what that one thing was. He tells the man to sell his possessions, give to the poor and follow Jesus. What was lacking? It could have been humility, patience, compassion, detachment. The man may or may not have known. But he would have found out had he just done what Jesus asked. By shedding the things the man thought defined him, secured his family and future, or made him "someone," he would have learned that they are all just dust, as the first reading tells us. Only our love for God and our constant desire to follow Jesus has real and lasting meaning. But it's not easy to see this. We see the big car and nice house. We don't see the spiritual and emotional good we do for others through our walk with Jesus. But know that it's there. He sees it and it enters and surrounds us, as the reading from Hebrews tells us. We're obligated to care for others with our work, our goods and our money. This is what frees us and secures our future.

Discussion Questions

1. Read aloud all three readings together. Discuss the theme of money as well as the theme of "asking God." How are these connected?
2. The rich man may or may not have done what Jesus asked, we don't know. Offer your thoughts on what you think he did and why. Then explain an instance where you gave money or time and were better off for it.
3. If you were able to go on a mission trip next year, where would you like to go and why?
4. One person read the Closing Prayer aloud. Then each person offer one intention for someone who they know (you don't need to name them) and why, if you'd like.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, you promised that if we ask anything from you, you will give it to us. We pray that you enable us to ask for those things that will make us better followers of you and better guides for those around us. We aren't the best at seeing what we really need, help us to recognize those times and opportunities to grow for our benefit and for your glory. Help us to know what you want us to know, to see what you want us to see and most especially to do those things you want for us and our salvation. Let us not be discouraged when you ask us to give up those things that do more harm than good, rather let us see in them an opportunity to grow. Let us see in our relationship with Jesus the good in all and the weaknesses in us. We ask all of this in your Holy Name in union with Holy Spirit. Amen.