



28th Week of Ordinary Time: 10/11th October 2021

Reflection / Homily – Mgr Daniel McHugh

“Those who seek the Lord Lack no Blessing.”

The story taking over the media at the beginning of this past week was the dealings of the wealthy, and how some of them have sought to grow their wealth at the expense of others.

The relationship between wealth and eternal life is the central focus of the Gospel for this 28th week. The young man in the Gospel is so attached to wealth that he is unable to choose eternal life, true riches, over it. Over and over again we see the pursuit of wealth leading to wrongdoing. Even at the Vatican itself there seems to have been difficulty in running the financial affairs of the Church without friction and unjust dealing!

The response of Jesus to the young man who wants to know what he must do to inherit eternal life was uncompromising: we are told Jesus loved him and, though the young man lived in a way that showed he followed the commandments, Jesus saw clearly that his attachment to his wealth got in the way of his reaching perfection. The disciples were shocked at the response of Jesus too: at that time riches was a sign of righteousness for the Jewish people and here was the Lord showing another way, detachment from material things.

And yet it is not so simple I think; riches don't necessarily get in the way of being close to Our Lord. We are told in the Gospels that Jesus was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, a rich man, and a disciple of Our Lord! The response of Jesus to the Disciples in the Gospel points the way I think. They said “In this case who can be saved?” They were conscious that to live people needed money and property. Jesus says “For man it is impossible, but not for God.” It seems to me that Jesus is inviting us to follow him and to put aside whatever gets in the way of this i.e. who is God for us? In the case of the young man his riches meant he had a divided heart.

Another story that made big headlines in the news this week was the meeting of the Faith Leaders of the world in Rome with Pope Francis, on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. They appealed to the Political Leaders of the world in advance of COP26 to ensure that everything would be done to reverse global warming and other ecological trends destroying “the earth our common home” as Pope Francis called it in “Laudato Si”.

Most interesting was the response of Alok Sharma MP standing in St Peter's Square. He is President of COP26. He talked of 85 % of the worlds population being people of Faith and how significant the coming together of Faith Leaders was. He commented that Science brings the “head” to these most important issues of our time, Faith brings “the heart”, and it is to be hoped that Faith will lead people to go in the right direction in their lives.

Monsignor Daniel McHugh

Co-ordinator for Ethnic Chaplaincies in the Archdiocese



For me the Gospel for the Sunday and the wonderful reading from the Book of Wisdom are a call to prayer and reflection on what comes first in our lives. The reading from Wisdom begins “I prayed and understanding was given to me; I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me”

The question of Peter: “What about us? We have left everything and followed you?” It sounds like “Where is the pay back?” And indeed there is, of course, riches of another kind that come to those who put the way of Jesus first; they are repaid a hundred times over. The joy of sacrifice, of detachment from the material things of life to be close to the Way of Jesus is what is the focus of praying the Rosary in October. We reflect on the mysteries of Jesus giving everything, giving Himself in love. The rich young man’s “countenance darkened and he went away saddened.” He had not been able to receive the fullness Jesus was offering through forsaking the fullness he was intent upon.

I recall a Parish Pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary Pompeii, celebrating her Feast of 7th October in 2013. Not only is it a place of National Pilgrimage in Italy to celebrate the gift of the Rosary, but also the place of the charitable works of Blessed Bartolo Longo, one who chose to follow the way Jesus called him to, giving up a career as a lawyer to care for the poor and destitute.

On Sunday last, 3rd October, following the Angelus Prayer in Rome, Pope Francis encouraged the people to pray the Rosary in October. As we do so, let us remember the words in the Communion Antiphon this Sunday:

Those who seek the Lord Lack no Blessing.

Monsignor Daniel McHugh

Co-ordinator for Ethnic Chaplaincies in the Archdiocese