

Read



Wisdom 7:7-11

Psalms 90:12-13, 14-15,
16-17

Hebrews 4:12-13

Mark 10:17-30 or 10:17-27

LIVING THE WORD

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 14, 2018



REFLECTION

Society tries to prove to us that we need material possessions, and lots of them. Advertisements, both subtle and overt, remind us on a daily basis that we don't have the newest technology or latest fashions. Marketing efforts suggest that we cannot be truly happy unless we have these things. The pressure can feel overwhelming. Today, Jesus is asking us to be countercultural. He tells one of his followers to sell everything he owns, give it to the poor, and then follow him in order to receive treasures in heaven. The devoted follower cannot do it and sadly walks away. Are you willing and able to do it? To give your phone, social media, favorite possessions to the nearest homeless shelter? This seems extreme and very difficult. Jesus reminds us though that with God, anything is possible!



ACTION

Giving up everything to follow Jesus calls us to task. Take baby steps toward living more simply so that you can rid yourself of distractions that prevent Jesus from being present to you. At least once this week, shut off your mobile devices and television for at least twenty-four hours. Spend this time with family: play a board game, take a walk around your neighborhood, eat a meal together. Make time for personal prayer. You might find yourself having physical withdrawals from eliminating technology from your life, but you will certainly be more aware of the freedom you now have! By making more time for Jesus you are telling him yes, you will give up everything and follow him.

Ask your parents or youth minister to help you find a resource you can use to pray, such as **Sunday Prayer for Teens** published by Liturgy Training Publications.



www.ltp.org



? QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ What possessions would hold you back from following Jesus in this way?
- ❖ Why do you think it is so hard to give everything up to follow Jesus?



October 14, 2018

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LECTIONARY #143B

Wisdom 7:7-11

Psalm 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17

Hebrews 4:12-13

Mark 10:17-30 or Mark 10:17-27

Prepare for the Word

The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.

Leader's Context

Today's Scripture talks about the costs of discipleship. We are reminded that we can't do this alone. We need God in our lives.

Q FOCUS: *To prefer discipleship above all else.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

On October 18 the Church celebrates the Feast of St. Luke, one of the evangelists. Have one of the teens find this date on the liturgical calendar. In the coming liturgical year, we will be hearing primarily from Luke's account of the Gospel. See what the teens already know about Luke.

Church Teaching Connection

"A virtue is an habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of himself. The virtuous person tends toward the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers; he pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1803).

Hear the Word

Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Mark 10:17-27

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.

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 than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were exceedingly astonished and said among themselves, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone may be seated.

Reflect on the Word

When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:

In today's Gospel, we learn about the costs of discipleship. A young man comes to Jesus and wants to know how to share in everlasting life. Jesus asks the young man if he follows the commandments, and he says that he has followed them since his childhood.

- ▶ What does Jesus ask the young man next?
- ▶ How does the young man respond?

Jesus tells the young man to sell his possessions and give everything to the poor. We hear that the young man's face fell and that he went away sad, because he had many possessions.

- ▶ Why do you think the young man spent so little time considering whether he might be able to sell his possessions?

Think of the possessions that you have.

- ▶ If you were asked by Jesus to give them all to the poor, would you do it?
- ▶ Which possessions would be hardest for you to give away? Why?
- ▶ How did the disciples respond to this?

We hear that the disciples were “amazed” and “exceedingly astonished.” Jesus then tells them how hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God. He uses the image of a camel passing through a needle's eye.

- ▶ What do you think Jesus means when he says this?

At first glance, it might seem like Jesus is saying that having nice things or money means that you can't go to heaven. But then Jesus says something else. The disciples say, “Then who can be saved?” And Jesus says that it is impossible for human beings to be saved, but that all things are possible for God.

- ▶ What do you think Jesus means by that?

Jesus is reminding us that without God, we are nothing. If we refuse to surrender our lives over to God's care, then there is no way for us to enter the kingdom of God. Everything that we are and everything that we have comes from God.

- ▶ How does this change your ideas about what Jesus meant about the camel and the eye of the needle?

- ▶ How do you rely on God in your life?

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, our goal as Christians living a virtuous life is to become like God. There are four cardinal virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. Prudence means using your reason to make good choices. Justice means giving God and others what is due to them. Fortitude means persisting in doing the right thing even when it is hard. Temperance means enjoying worldly pleasures in a moderate way so as not to let them become a distraction. Pursuit of these virtues helps us form good habits and live as God intends us to live.

- ▶ Which of these virtues do you already see at work in your actions?
- ▶ Which virtue do you still need to work toward?

Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the "Church Teaching Connection" on page 46.

Do you see power and wealth as important?

Do you put your trust in God, or in things?

If you have a wealth of time, how can you serve others?

If you are rich with good health, how can you put yourself at the service of someone whose health prevents him or her from doing certain chores or getting out to see people?

Act on the Word

All Things Are Possible with God

You may want to have video cameras (many digital cameras now have this capability) in order to lead this activity.

Divide the teens into four groups, and assign each group one of the four cardinal virtues (temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice). Spend some time talking to each group about their virtue to be sure that they understand what it means. Refer to the "Church Teaching Connection" section for more information. Once each group understands their virtue, have them work together to create a short commercial or PSA about how their virtue makes all things possible with God. If you have a video camera, you might want to film their presentations and make them available to others in your parish through email or on your parish or school website.

Closing Prayer

*Loving Father,
your kingdom of mercy and redemption
is the greatest gift we can hope to receive.
Your Son promises that the kingdom belongs
to those
who have renounced the allure of wealth
and see you as the source of their salvation.
With you all things are possible.
Open our eyes to this truth and your presence in
our world.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday's Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at www.ltp.org/lwgr. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.