

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

The wealth of wisdom. Wisdom 7:7-11
We cannot hide from God. Hebrews 4:12-13
Go and sell your possessions and come follow me.
Mark 10:17-30

Next week:

Isaiah 53:10-11; Hebrews
4:14-16; Mark 10:35-45

In a nutshell

The rich young man learns that the cost of following the Lord is a complete gift of self, holding nothing back. The incompatibility of wealth and eternal life, so forcefully expressed by Jesus in this Gospel, upsets his listeners ('Who can be saved?!') Jesus reminds them that salvation is the work of God, not human achievement.



'Round the kitchen table

On the topic of 'attitudes to wealth', the following points were raised in a 'round-the-kitchen-table discussion. Hold your own discussion today and see what questions and insights emerge.

Sharing the wealth

'The family next door tithes their income - they give away ten percent of each month's earnings to a charity. The family gather each month to decide together where the money will go. The children are encouraged to tithe their pocket money, too.' (Ian)

And the winner is...?

'I went in a lottery today. I like the thought of trying to win something every now and then. But what I would actually do if I won the \$16,000 car or shopping spree I'm not sure. I mean, would I just keep it to feather my own nest? Or would I give it all away to someone who really needs it? Would I keep some of the prize money and give away a portion? And if so, how much? I

find these challenging questions.'
(Emma)

Letting go...

'My mum says that getting old is a process of "giving back" to God all the riches God has given her since she was a baby. As she grew she learnt to walk and run and dance. Now, as she gets older and her bad back and arthritic knee restrict her movements, she says she has to let go of all these things. She has to "give them back" as freely as they were given to her.' (Maria)

Taken for granted

'When Dad had a heart attack at age sixty, everybody said things like "He works too hard" or "It was stress that brought it on." It was then that it occurred to me that I had never thanked Dad for "working so hard" for me. When I was growing up, his work - and all the security and education it provided for me and the whole family - was just something I took for granted. (Matt)

Think...Talk

- What does it mean to be 'rich in the eyes of God'?
- Think of all the ways you are 'rich' (materially and non-materially).
- What is today's Gospel saying to you about your riches?
- How are you being asked to use your wealth?
- What might you be called to 'give up' or 'give away'?

Pray

For a generous heart...
For a desire for the riches of heaven
We pray to the Lord.



church below the rooftops

Helen is in her sixties and has spent the last thirty years of her life as a voluntary church worker. On the topic of the gospel challenge to live simply she made this comment:

'The choice to accept a simplified lifestyle is all about priorities. Do we spend our time and energies trying to "get ahead" or do we focus on sharing Christ's love and helping others in whatever ways we can? The latter involves a financial cost, yes. But it can mean giving up other things too. For example, at a conference I met a man who turned down a promotion in his job because he wanted to spend more time with his family. One of the "costs" for this man might be that he will never fulfil his professional potential.'

Think of a choice, made out of love and faith, which meant giving up a good. What was the 'cost'? And the blessing?



RealPeople offers faith reflections from the saints and prophets of everyday life.

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