



## Holy Trinity Catholic Church

Served by the Jesuits in Southern Africa

Sermon Outline  
**28<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year - B**  
13 October 2024

*Fr Russell Pollitt SJ*

### Mark 10:17-27

<sup>17</sup> As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' <sup>18</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. <sup>19</sup> You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother."' <sup>20</sup> He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' <sup>21</sup> Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' <sup>22</sup> When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup> Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' <sup>24</sup> And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' <sup>26</sup> They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' <sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

*(Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition)*

#### 1. What is your deepest desire?

*"Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Mark 10:17)*

- ◆ Making decisions that honour who we really are and what we really want.
- ◆ We get trapped in a false kingdom – not God's kingdom. We live in the kingdom where we feel successful/comfortable.
- ◆ Stuck between deepest desires and fear/security?

#### 2. Attachments

*"Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me". (Mark 10:21)*

- ◆ What do I hold onto? Greatest loves can be attachments too...
- ◆ St Paul "double edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12) – God the surgeon? Freeing us **for** our deepest desires, something greater.

#### 3. Absolute Freedom

*"When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving" (Mark 10:22)*

- ◆ Jesus leaves the man absolutely free, doesn't compel him. True love is absolutely free.
- ◆ His freedom affects him – sad – and not the Lord's love.

#### 4. Turning Points

*"For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." (Mark 10:27)*

- ◆ Lord offers us all turning points, transitions, opportunity to change something significant – way we live, what we care about, what we believe, our priorities.
- ◆ Young man cannot seize the moment and step forward *but* he is still seeking. Couldn't fully grasp the moment, let God do what he thinks is impossible.

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