



BISHOP RICHARD'S

Weekly Reflection

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The encounter between Jesus and the rich man in this Sunday's Gospel is a real challenge to each and every one of us – not just to those who may possess material or financial wealth. When considered along with the first reading this Sunday, from the Book of Wisdom, it is a real invitation to think in a new way.

The man in the Gospel was a good person. He kept the commandments, he was observant in his Jewish faith, a man of integrity and probity. Not only that, he had within him a real desire to do all things well, that he might know eternal life. The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that God sees all things – and Jesus, seeing all was in this good man, upon whom he looked with love, could see what was lacking. Jesus could see the one stumbling block that stood in the way of this man's desire for the fulfilment of God's promises in and for him: riches. The thought of losing his wealth was too much for him – a reminder that the path to the Kingdom is narrow and entered through the narrow gate.

It is consoling to reflect on the fact that Jesus looks at each one of us, sees us just as we are and loves us just as we are – as he loved the rich man. It is challenging to realise that Jesus also sees whatever is in us that would keep us from Him, and it is important to reflect on whatever may be keeping us from being His true disciples, filled and brimming over with the love that He shares with us.

Let us not shrink from this real, honest examination of conscience, this thorough-going reflection on our lives that is a necessary step for those intent on living the life we are called to live, the people whom we are called to be. While this step may be daunting, it leads to the 'Life to the Full' that, as Matthew records Jesus saying, is the very reason for His coming.

With every Blessing,

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