



October 11, 2009
The Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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'—Mark 10:21

Dear Friends;

Dr. Robert Schuller (of the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove) once asked Coretta Scott King where she got the dream that kept her going. She responded, "It was while I was attending Antioch College...I heard a quotation that deeply motivated me. Horace Mann said to his first graduating class at Antioch in the late 1850's, 'Be ashamed to die until you've won some victory for humanity.'"

What motivates you in life? In today's Gospel passage from Mark Jesus encounters a rich young man. Motivated by love Jesus invites him to share his vision for the Kingdom of God. Like falling in love to follow Jesus demands our entire being.

The young man could not take the plunge. The Gospel indicates it was his wealth that held him back. Rather than he who possessed the wealth, his wealth seemed to have possessed him.

What holds you back from following Jesus completely? Is it lack of vision or imagination? Is it lack of personal fire? Have I been taken possession of by fear, worry, self-pity, lack of interest or cynicism? Do I not trust that I am loved and have what it takes to make a difference?

Sometimes it seems impossible for us to break free to the vision of Jesus and the Kingdom. Too much has hold on us. Yet nothing is impossible for the love of God. The young man walks away sad, however we are not told what happens later. Maybe he was eventually able to break free. Maybe we will also.

Our faith is not a momentary experience but is a life process. As we grow older we realize that the things that once held us and we thought to be so important are no longer important. Life has a way of stripping things away—hair, youth, vitality. Yet in its place we can find wisdom, companionship and love.

In the end it is only love that we can take with us. Hopefully we do not wait until our death beds to discover that reality. Jesus invites us to taste the wealth of the Kingdom in the many sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers, and children that we possess together as members of his body. That is a wealth beyond any amount of gold.

Peace,

Fr. Ron