



Bukás Loób sa Diyós

(Open in Spirit to God)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY
DISTRICT OF NEWARK

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GLOBAL

COUNSELS

Letting Go

Heavenly Treasure

Taken from BLD Global Word Sharing Circle Facebook Page

REFLECTION:

The story about the rich man in Mark's gospel challenges us to look deeper into ourselves and reflect on what we consider most important in our life. This man must have expected a simple affirmation when he asked Jesus,

"...what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Mk 10:17)

knowing that he had been observing the commandments from his youth. But when Jesus lovingly told him he needs to detach himself from his riches and follow Jesus, ***"he went away sad, for he had many possessions,"*** (Mk 10:22). Jesus was actually asking him not to be attached to his earthly possessions and instead fill his heart with love for God and neighbor, and follow Him until the end of his earthly pilgrimage.

Jesus then laments, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God," (MK 10:23b). Material riches are not evil and to be rich is not a sin. However, Jesus wants to impart the message that wealth can easily make us self-sufficient. It can take us away from our dependency and trust in God, most especially if one does not share his affluence with the poor and needy. One can be dominated by the craving of possessions, comfortable life, power, and influence in society. Pope Francis speaking about riches, said: ***"Wealth ensures nothing. Indeed, once we think we are rich, we can become so self-satisfied that we leave no room for God's word, for the love of our brothers and sisters, or for the enjoyment of the most important things in life,"*** (Gaudete Et Exsultate, 2018, par 68).

We are removed from our true relationship with God when we let wealth dominate our attitude, our priorities, and our relationship with

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THEME:

We obey God's commandment of love when we deny ourselves of worldly attachments.

WORD:

Wis 7:7-11/ Ps 90:12-17/ Heb 4:12, 13/
Mk 10:17-30

ORDER:

"Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor...then come, follow me." (Mk 10:21)

REFLECTION:

The first reading for this Sunday tells the story of how God offered to give Solomon whatever he wished for, but the king only asked for the gift of wisdom. King Solomon must have taken on the mind of God in order to understand the value of the gift he was asking for. Even just the act of asking for wisdom, in itself, is a wisdom that can only come from the Holy Spirit's guidance. Our fallen nature blocks us from gaining such depth of knowledge, understanding, and discernment without the aid of God. In Proverbs chapter 3, wisdom is desirable because it is rooted in trust in God, it rewards obedience with blessings, it results in a long life of peace, and it finds favor with others and with God. Wisdom is a heavenly treasure to be sought.

In the Gospel, we hear the story of the rich young man who came to Jesus and asked Him: ***"What must I do to inherit eternal life?"*** Jesus' answer is, ***"Go, sell all you have and give the money to the poor. Then, come and follow me."*** Upon hearing Jesus' response, ***"...his face fell, and he went away sad for he had many possessions."***

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Promise of the Week

"...and you will have treasure in heaven..."
(Mk 10:21c))

GLOBAL

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other people. Attachment to possessions may even hinder us from opening our heart to an unexpected calling from God. Instead, we should accept God's invitation to love Him and follow Jesus. Then we will learn that we do not need to cling on to our possessions and positions for security because God will provide all things we really need in life. Let us avoid the pitfall of believing that flourishing careers and busyness excuse us in serving others, doing good work, or even making time for family, civic, and spiritual life. Wealth and privileges can make us arrogant and insensitive to people around us. Even if we hold a position of authority, we should regard such as belonging to God for He is the Author of everything. We are simply God's stewards, representing Him but not assuming the status that belongs to Him alone.

Also, we may not be aware that there are many good things in life that we can become attached to. Be prepared to let go of these earthly attachments: friendship, influence, jobs, entertainment, life style, that could stand in the way of your loving God first. Be resolute to be detached from everything, except to God and His holy Will. Understandably, this "letting go" would require much determination in our life and much self-denying on things we love doing. We must not be distracted by things on earth, but be focused on heavenly things and the promised eternal reward.

Today's gospel invites us to detach ourselves from our comfort zones, to lead true and authentic Christian lives. If we are truly in search of eternal life, we have to attach ourselves to God and His plan for us. Giving more importance to our earthly treasures – wealth, fame, and power against God's ways and plans will make us unfit to enter the Kingdom of God. We are called to follow His path if we want to attain eternal life, a life of real freedom and endless bliss. Consider the Lord as our greatest treasure, the greatest joy we can possess. Let us ask God to bless us so that we can be generous in our love for Him and each other. And as we grow in love, we will come to realize God's promise:

*“...and you will have treasure in heaven...”
(Mk 10:21c)*

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen our faith and awaken the spirit of generosity and love within us, that we may love our brethren in need and each other with sincere and true love. → →

→ Lord, help us to let go of everything that is not of You. Help us to be detached even from family in a holy way so that we are free to love them with Your Heart. May You, our Lord, be our only purpose and love, and in this love may we discover how to love everyone with Your Heart. May you always be our treasure and delight and may nothing else keep us from giving You our all in all. Amen

Reflection Questions:

1. What are you most attached to in your life? If God were to ask you to give up that attachment or priority, will you?
2. Are you prepared to cultivate a closer relationship with the Lord by simplifying your life and getting rid of "excess" earthly baggage?

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*“Whoever listens to you listens to me.”
(Luke 10:16)*

By Deacon Rod Soriano

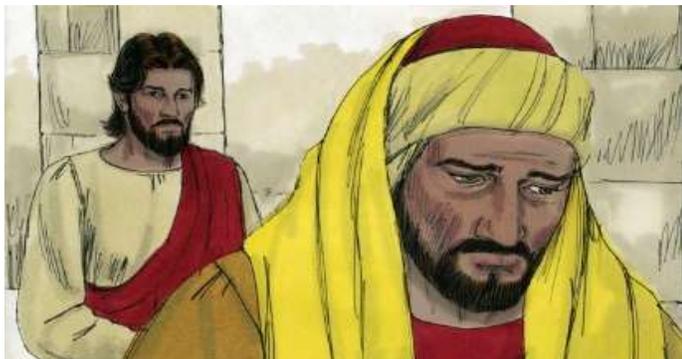
Often, we see Jesus as the miracle worker, curing the sick, raising the dead. But in these verses from Luke (from the daily Mass for Friday, October 1; cf. Lk 10:13-16) we see something different: Christ performs those miracles but He also reproaches the unrepentant people in the towns, those who had witnessed Him and His works. It was no longer enough for them to just stare in wonderment at our Lord's mighty deeds. While those deeds, among many other things, proved His divine origin and the truthfulness of His message, He goes on to also emphasize the importance and need for repentance and conversion.

In this Gospel passage, Jesus pointed out that even pagan towns such as Tyre and Sidon would have responded better to Him than did Chorazin and Capernaum. It's not enough for people to say that we believe. No, the gift of faith should go beyond just words; faith prompts us to strive for holiness, for continual conversion of heart, and for zeal to build the Church. That is how our faith must impact our lives, lives that should be lived for others.

Christ's authority includes His power to delegate it. To the Church, He gives the power to bind and to lose. "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (John 20:23). So, we listen to Him when we

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COUNSELS (from page 1)



There are two characters in the readings for Sunday that stand in contrast against each other. In the first reading, King Solomon knew exactly what to ask for in order to gain everything. Whereas in the Gospel reading, the young man was fearful and unsure, so he was unable to give up his material wealth to follow Jesus.

Research is now uncovering how wealth impacts our sense of morality, our relationships with others, and our mental health. Several studies have shown that wealth may be at odds with empathy and compassion. Meanwhile, among the things that the studies revealed was that a lack of resources can foster greater emotional intelligence, while having more resources can cause bad behavior. The results point to how temptation is greater when wealth is involved. Jesus tells the young man, and us, in no uncertain terms, to detach ourselves from it.

Today's readings help us understand true wealth and supplies the antidote to being possessed by worldly wealth. What is too little that you cannot share and what is too much that you need more?

Jesus Looked Around And
Said To His Disciples,
"How Hard It Is For
The Rich To Enter The
Kingdom Of God!"

Mark 10:23

BibleWordings.com

That is a question most of us have to answer. Every individual decides for him or herself. Some have found an appropriate balance; most are still trying to fill a longing that will never be satisfied. Jesus said **"How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"** (Mt 10:23). God's Word tells us that it is not the money per se that is bad, but it is the love or attachment to wealth that can impair judgement.

The gaze of Jesus upon the young man is full of grace, mercy, and compassion. In it is the love that enables us to step out of our fallen state → →

→ → in life to attain victory with Him. Had the young man asked for the grace to shed himself of his attachments, I surmise that Jesus would have given it to him.

Our world is hyper commercialized and there is no escaping the culture it has created. Only a life of discipleship, faithful obedience and a relationship with God will enable us to give up our worldly attachments. Only with eyes focused on the Lord can we recognize true wealth and count all else as insignificant.

The Psalm leads us to pray the prayer of a righteous disciple, "Teach us to number our days aright that we may gain wisdom of heart." This provides us with a beautiful transition to lead us from reflection into prayer. Those who utter the name of God in sincere prayer will naturally come to desire God's Truth. The power of God's name and every bit of His Truth are transformative. The Psalm response, "Fill us with your love O God and we will sing for joy!" captures our longing for God to continue to pour out divine gifts upon us so that we may be elevated from our lowly state. Only by God's grace can we worship Him and commune with Him. Internalizing God's Word and speaking it back to Him is a tremendous gift that puts the power of His grace within our reach.

Prayer: Lord, you are truly wise beyond our comprehension. We trust You to guide us and to show us the way to everlasting life with You. Amen.

Direction

1. **Free yourself from worldly attachments and set your priorities according to God's Law.**
2. **Share your time, talent, and treasure with the community.**

"Whoever Listens..."

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listen to the Church and its leaders. Moreover, Number 891 of the Catechism observes that "The Roman Pontiff, head of the college of bishops, enjoys infallibility in that virtue of his office, when, as supreme pastor and teacher of all the faithful -- who confirms his brethren in the faith -- he proclaims by a definitive act a doctrine pertaining to faith or morals." When we follow the Holy Father's teaching, we honor the One who gave him authority. And Our Lord's authority extends into other areas too, such as to loving parents over their dependent children and to responsible government officials who oversee the common good. Respect the legitimate authority of those around you. Understand that obedience to legitimate authority is a form of obedience to God Himself.

ON PSALM 34

Taste and see that the Lord is good

But truly, if we seek Him
 And tune our five senses
 Not only will we be able
 To taste and see...
 His goodness we will also
 Hear, smell and feel

Then the awareness of His presence
 Begins to go beyond
 What our bodies can perceive
 Beyond what our minds can acknowledge
 Past the physical limits of the things around us

Our hearts too will know
 That the Lord is good

Savor and cherish that the Lord is good

Once we sense Him
 The key to a happy, joy-filled life
 Is to never let go of Him
 Through life's ups and downs
 Past the world's troubles and noises

When we savor and cherish His goodness
 Then sure to follow
 Despite whatever
 May be happening around us
 Is His peace

Dear friends, always
 May we...
 Taste and see,
 And then savor and cherish
 That indeed...
 The Lord is good!

ALLELUIA!

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How do you nourish your faith? What are you thankful for? **Do you have favorite Bible verses, prayers, or saints?** Favorite podcast, Bible or Catholic Apps? **Would you like to share your reflections?** Contact **Word Ministry at Word@BLDNewark.com** to share your talent for the **Covenant News**. We would love to hear from you.

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

| Collections: | Last Week | YTD |
|--|-----------|----------|
| Tithes & Love Offerings / E-Giving / Mailed Checks | \$1,820 | \$85,343 |
| Covid 19 Collection | \$ - | \$ 1,990 |
| Mission | \$ - | \$ 5,000 |

Financial details are available to all members through treasury@bldnewark.com



To donate online:

Go to **Donate to BLD Newark** link on the home page of **BLDNewark.com**

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BLD Newark Live Stream



Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary 2000 Hail Mary
Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021
8 am – 6 pm / DMP Auditorium



Holy Rosary/ Praise & Worship
Friday, Oct. 15, 2021 / Divine Mercy Parish

In-person Community Teaching:
"Norms and Values"

<https://www.bldnewark.com/live-events.html>



Aspirants Retreat
October 15-17, 2021
CYO Kearny, NJ

Please join our own Intercessory Ministry in their nightly community prayers via Zoom. Everyone is most welcome to participate
Zoom ID: 2265467380 / PW: 750109
For more details, please contact Ram & Claire Bautist