



In yesterday's gospel reading the rich young man found it impossible to follow Jesus because of his attachment to his possessions, in spite of his great desire to inherit eternal life. That is why Jesus goes on to say in this morning's gospel reading, 'it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. The disciples were astonished because the disciples' very likely assumed that riches were a sign of God's favor which is how they were often understood in the Jewish Scriptures. However, Jesus was aware that too many possessions can come to possess us, and become a kind of god. One of the sayings of Jesus in the gospels is, 'You cannot serve God and mammon'. What the disciples saw as a blessing Jesus saw as a temptation and a danger.

### **Reflection:**

Attachment to riches can easily take away one's heart from the Lord... Being obsessed with riches leaves us with little time and thought for things of eternity. Our planning, aspirations, and projects often end up being only earthly in nature! Having too many riches can pose a danger to feel proud and independent. A sense of "I can manage all by myself" creeps in; in the process, keeping aside God from our lives!

Venerable Bishop Fulton Sheen says: "Excessive adornments and an inordinate love of comforts are proof of our inner nakedness!"

**'Who can be saved?' what about the rest of us?'**

Jesus replied, "For human beings, this is impossible; but for God all things are possible" (Mt 19: 26). The demands of Christianity to live a life of detachment from riches can sometimes cause undue anxieties.

And we begin to ask Is it really possible for us to live as Jesus expected of us? Is it not beyond my capabilities to achieve what the Lord wishes of us? Such kind of anxieties and worries can often cause weariness our soul!

St Francis de Sales says: "Anxiety is the greatest evil that can befall a soul, except sin! Have patience with all things, but first of all with yourself!"

The Lord tells us that even in our efforts to be detached - we need to depend on Him, we need to know that His Grace will take us through and we need to thank the Lord continually for all His blessings, acknowledging Him as the source.

We have one of those sayings of Jesus which can give us great encouragement, 'For God everything is possible'. Jesus seems to be saying that God can find a way of touching the hearts even of those who, like the rich young man, are possessed by their possessions. Jesus is declaring that God's ability to draw us to himself cannot be underestimated. Even a small opening in our lives will be greatly exploited by God.

The words of Mother Angelica, the founder of EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network) are a reminder to us. "Have we lost sight of this world being a pilgrimage? It's a journey! You're not home yet. A Christian must never lose sight of this passing reality of life" Yes, let us come to this realization about attachments to riches: "Alas! this is a very fine thing in this country, but I am going to a country where it will be of no use to me!"

**It is the Christian's privilege to be rich in material things, and poor in attachment to them!"**

**Let us pray:**

Dear Jesus, all I have is yours. I thank you for spiritual and material wealth in my life. Let me use them for those in need for your Glory. Help me to

shed the unhealthy concerns of worldly wealth. Knowing this world being a pilgrimage, I may locate my security and my future in you.

**Jesus, I Trust In You.**