

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B; HOMILY HIGHLIGHTS

READINGS; 1st Wis. 7:7-11, 2nd Heb. 4: 12-13, Gospel Mark 10: 17-30

His face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

Introduction; as we leave our lives here on earth, we have different kinds of relationships. One is relationship to oneself, second to others, third to the things, fourth to God our creator, one could continue the list but four areas of utmost importance are these. There should be balance in keeping with the commandment of love for God and one's neighbor. The things or the created world around us should be used as a means to perfect our relationships and not as an end to themselves.

Reflection; it is worth quoting in this context the words of venerable Fulton Sheen; "politics has become so all-possessive of life, that by impertinence it thinks the only philosophy a person can hold is the right or the left. This question puts out all the lights of religion so they can call all the cats gray. It assumes that man lives on a purely horizontal plane, and can move only to the right or the left. Had we eyes less material, we would see that there are two other directions where a man with a soul may look: the vertical directions of "up" or "down".

These words of venerable Sheen, give us the true picture of what is happening in our world today but also point out the teaching of Christ about what should be the right relationship to wealth and worldly allurements. One day and indeed every day the world offers us opportunities of fake happiness, fake solutions to what we consider to be challenges of life. But in the first reading and the Gospel, the answer to true happiness and the meaning of life has been given; wisdom of God and readiness to follow Christ.

It is true that all theology began with the created world. Not before creation did we have the knowledge of the existence of God. From all created world God wants us to slowly grasp the essence of the creator. The invitation of Jesus to the rich young man in the gospel is the invitation given to us all, "then come and follow me." After we have detached ourselves from the material world, our possessions, when we are free and are travelling light, we can go to Jesus. Discipleship is costly for those who depend on the material possessions for their happiness and security.

The word of God which is sharper than any two-edged sword is both the scriptures in which God continues to speak to us every day and the incarnate word of God, our Lord Jesus Christ. If we want to be true followers of Christ, we have to learn from him and abide by what he teaches us through the church his mystical body. Unity with Christ and with his holy church will bring us into the brighter light of faith and finally show us the way to the father. Give up all your burdens and come follow me, for my burden is light and my yoke is simpler.