

August 17, 2020
Monday of the 20th Week
Ez 24:15-23
Deut 32:18-19, 20, 21
Mt 19:16-22

ACT OF A DISCIPLE!

The rich young man in the gospel proclaimed is considered good. He follows the law. He observes the Commandments. Nevertheless, like many other Jews, the rich young man knows that mere adherence to the law is not enough. He wants to be better and reach his ultimate goal – eternal life. Thus, he seeks the opinion of Jesus by asking, **“Teacher, what good must I do to gain eternal life?”**

The answer of Jesus is twofold – **1)** Jesus brings the rich young man back to the core of the Commandments, and **2)** Jesus invites him to be a disciple. Following the Commandments is not a problem for the rich young man. He observes it faithfully. Discipleship, though, is a bitter pill for him to swallow. **Why?** It is simply because the Lord Jesus is asking him to make a radical shift of his lifestyle and he is not ready to do it. His heart is still focus on his material possessions.

It is unfortunate that the rich young man did not understand the demands of discipleship. Perhaps, he thought that the Lord Jesus is asking him to go bankrupt. No, that is not what the Lord Jesus is asking him to do. Rather, the Lord Jesus wants him to use his material wealth to serve the poor. The Lord Jesus wants him to show generosity to those who are in the margins of society. The Lord Jesus wants him, not only to be a man of God, but also to be a man for others.

Our presence here this morning, I believe, is an expression of our desire to be real people of God giving importance to **prayer**, the 2nd pillar of stewardship. We are aware though that mere adherence to the 2nd pillar of stewardship is inadequate. **Why is it insufficient?** It is simply because we still have the 4th pillar and, that is, **service**. To stop in prayer and ignore the call to service is just a repetition of the mistake committed by the rich young man. I am pretty sure we don’t want to do that. Therefore, the Lord Jesus is challenging us to put our **prayer** into **service** and our **service** ushers us back to **prayer**. Again, let me repeat what Pope Francis said with regard to prayer and service, **“You pray for the hungry, then you feed them. That is how prayer works.”**

The Lord Jesus wants us to be his disciples. He wants us to practice discipleship in doing hospitality, praying unceasingly, embracing formation wholeheartedly, and serving others humbly and lovingly. The question, however, is – **are we willing to accept the**

demands of discipleship? Looking at the 4 pillars of stewardship, **where are we strong at? What do we lack of?**

Lord Jesus, you know the desire of our hearts. We do want to be your disciples. Please give us the grace to be one so we can attract others to be your disciples too. Amen.