

October 13-14, 2018
Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 7:7-11 Hebrews 4:12-13 Mark 10:17-30

To what do you cling?

Your children? Your standard of living? A particular car? A youthful appearance? Your standing within society? Your health? A memory that has come and gone? An ideology?

To what do you cling?

In our passage from the Gospel of Mark we hear of a well-intentioned individual who wants to 'inherit eternal life.' Jesus, as only Jesus can, spoke in an affirmative manner...extending his LOVE to the man, Jesus also challenged him...to let go of the things to which he clung...his possessions: '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.' With this statement, the man did NOT just express disappointment, he did NOT get up and rejoin the rest of the crowd...he did not thank Jesus for the guidance and start hosting garage sales to get rid of his possessions...he 'WENT AWAY SAD...for he had many possessions.' Possessions are not just the purchased items we have accumulated, nor is it just our financial reserves in bank deposits, POSSESSIONS are things that, oddly, POSSESS US...we go to great lengths to preserve them, protect them, enhance them, WE CLING TO THEM. If a situation presented itself where we needed to relinquish your car(s) in order to save your child's life....would you do it? How about a treasured heirloom if your wife or husband needed a particular surgery? Would you downsize your home and move to a new location to protect your family? Would you forgo your Starbucks habit so as to help a friend meet their rent? Would you turn away from beauty enhancement procedures so as to help a grandchild go to college? Would you forgo extensive medical procedures so as to demonstrate your belief in life with Jesus? Circling back to what has been shared, shared and shared again in previous Worship Aids, SALVATION is just a fancy Church word for RELATIONSHIP with JESUS. A relationship cannot be bought, it is not completion of a checklist, it is more than just following 'rules', IT IS about focusing on the BELOVED, the one with whom we want to be in relationship and shedding anything and everything (and anyone) that interferes with the intensity of that focus.

To what do you cling?

Jesus?

Thank you for sharing a portion of your day with our Santa Clara community. In anticipation of All Souls Day, November 2nd, envelopes are available at the exits for you to enroll your own beloved dead in the NOVEMBER MASSES. Please take a Bulletin with you, not just for news about upcoming events but also for the assorted articles that are reprinted in hopes of sparking your own interest and reflection on assorted issues. Next weekend we will be accepting a Second Special Collection called WORLD MISSION SUNDAY, which brings the Mission Appeal Season to a close (until it starts up again next Summer.) These monies assist the Diocese of Orange in being able to respond to all the pleas for financial help from around the world (and even from within our own nation) that do not merit their own focused weekend collection. Thank you for your consideration and generosity. As you start to review your Voter Guides in preparation to cast your ballots...please remember, you are loved. FKB