**Homily** **for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Rev. Francis D. Kim*

        We are not supposed to let money become the most important thing in life, but when bill mount, it is hard not to become preoccupied. The problem is that money can all too easily become our master instead of our servant.

        That’s why the Bible so often talks about money, warning of its dangers and urging us to put it in its rightful place. It is true whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied. So, today’s Gospel reminds us that the possessions and wealth cannot give us lasting happiness.

        The incident of the rich man coming to Jesus is a challenge from the Lord to all of us.

        The Gospel says that as Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man comes up to Him with a question. The Gospel doesn’t say precisely when or where this happened. It doesn’t even give us the man’s name because it could be any person, any place, and any time with the universal question, “What must we do to inherit eternal life?” It is the question of every culture and every people.

        Jesus answers directly. “Keep the commandments.” The man replies that he has done that, but still he wanted more, he needed more. Jesus looked at him with love and compassion, and said to him, “You are lacking in one thing. Sell what you have, give to the poor, then, come, follow Me.”

        The man looked at Jesus; Jesus looked at him, and there was a silence. Then, the man left. Because he had many possessions.

        Then, Jesus says, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God.”

        The problem is not just money. The problem is that there is something in our lives to block out God like money. Money might control human heart, and when money controls, greed follows close behind. Greed delights in owning what money can buy.

        Greed makes us so preoccupied with money, there is no room for God there. Get preoccupied with money, and we forget about God.

        The important questions are, “What are we doing with money? Is it a burden to our soul or a blessing? Is it building up our spiritual asserts or depleting them? Are we better followers of Christ because of it or in spit of it?”

        Money itself is not a problem. Money is a tool. What it does to our life and to our soul is up to us.

        We all have something that stands in the way to God. The key is to identify it. Jesus did that for the rich man. For the rich man, it was his possessions; for us, it may be something else.

        Today, we heard what is important to inherit eternal life. Material things are not important for eternal life in heaven. The most important thing is our spiritual life, our special relationship with God.

        In order to love God above all things and to live as a more faithful disciple of Jesus, we must let go of things that hinder us from growing in our love for the Lord.

        Let us remember, Jesus tells the rich man, “Sell everything, give the money to the poor, then, come, follow me.” Christ looked with love into the man’s heart and saw his riches blocked out God.

        God offers us treasure which money cannot buy. He alone can truly satisfy the deepest longing and desires of our hearts.

        Question for us is, “What in our lives keeps us from God? What do we own or do or like so much we forget about God?” If something blocks out God, Jesus says, “Get rid of it. Then, come, follow Me.”

        Jesus is not trying to condemn us. Rather, He invites us into a deeper relationship with Him. He invites us to strive to let go of things that hinder us from growing in our love for Him and following Him more faithfully.

        This week, let us ask ourselves, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?”