

28th SUNDAY YEAR B REFLECTIONS 2021.

THE POSSESSIVE POSSESSIONS:

Our first reading today presents the speech of Solomon in praise of wisdom. It is teaching us how to live **rightly** and enables us to use the things of this world in a way that will help us achieve the goal that God has set for us in this world. We must be conscious of how we use what we have in this world. We are called to control the things we have but not let them control our destiny. Whatever we have in this world is supposed to help us as **channels, not as obstacles to achieve our goal which is the kingdom of God.**

Our discipleship can easily be distracted by material possessions and comforts. It is clearly seen in the Gospel today with this young, good man who faced Jesus with such a strong passion for the kingdom of God. Jesus looked at him and loved him. What an invitation to all of us to ask Jesus to look at us and love us! In this Gospel we are faced with some questions which could be addressed to all of us. Jesus was setting on a journey. **Where and when** is not mentioned at all. It doesn't even give us the **name** of the young person. It indicates clearly it could be **any place, any time, any person**, you or me. Don't we all ask the same question to Jesus, "What must I do to have eternal life?" Are we not searching for this eternal life? This is a question for everyone. This is why we are here in this church today, looking for an answer. Jesus gave a straightforward answer. **Keep the commandments which the man had already done.** This won him the admiration of Jesus. Obviously, anyone would have admired such a character. He had confidence and was so sure of himself. **"I have kept all of them."** Jesus straight away dropped the bomb on the man, **"For you, one thing is lacking, go and sell all that you have, give to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven, then come and follow me."** The moment of discernment for this man was here and now, they looked at each other, no talking, yet a lot was taking place. He felt a tension, since he had many possessions,

and to let go was not easy. He opted to **go away. He was obsessed and possessed by his possessions.** His wealth **trapped him. *He went away sad!***

What a great challenge for us today in our present society. What things might be trapping us or getting in the way of following Christ? Might it be **envy, pride, lust, materialistic ideas, wealth, bad relationships, politics** misleading us? Jesus spotted the man's problem. Can we allow him to spot the obstacles within us today? Let Jesus take control. He is simply telling us to use what we have in a wise way. He is not telling us not to have possessions, but to use them to reach him through our generosity to others, especially the disadvantaged in our communities.

“What you have must not be a burden to you but a Blessing”