

[Wis 7:7-11](#)

[Ps 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17](#)

[Heb 4:12-13](#)

[Mk 10:17-30 or 10: 17-27](#)

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Communication is not just about imparting information or knowledge; it is about sharing experiences and insights that create community. What Jesus taught and shared was that the Kingdom of God was unlike anything we could imagine. His teachings turned the world view upside-down. While our world says “more” is better, “bigger” is better, Jesus says the Kingdom of God is about “letting go” of all we want to guard and keep: wealth, possessions, power, ideas, reputation and success. Jesus tells us these things only give us a FALSE security. Why is it false? It is false because all those things can be lost very quickly.

Today, Jesus says our only true value--the value of the wise and prudent person-- is found in a right relationship with God.

When I was young, this gospel passage would have been used as a vocation call to religious life or priesthood. It would have been used to solicit applicants. When Mark wrote his gospel, however, there was no “organized” priesthood or religious life as we know them today. So WHO was he addressing? What was he inviting people to do? He was addressing all those who wanted a closer relationship with God, those willing to place their trust in God’s care and not in the things this world could supply.

There is a story about a desert father who was thirsty, and lowered the bucket into his well to draw water. When the bucket came up, it was filled with nuggets of precious gold. But the gold could not quench his thirst, and the monk emptied the gold out onto the sand. Again he lowered the bucket and this time it came up filled with fine silver. But the silver could not quench his thirst and he flung it away with disdain. For a moment the monk prayed to God, the giver of all good gifts, and then he lowered the bucket a third time. When he drew up the bucket this time, it was brimming with cool sweet water, and the monk drank with gratitude.

The monk realized from this experience that the thirst of his heart could never be satisfied with anything less than God himself. No power, pleasure or possession can quench our thirst completely either. Only the supreme gift which is God himself can fully satisfy us. While we may drop our buckets into many wells seeking contentment and happiness, the great St. Augustine says that our hearts are restless until they rest in God.

It is hard to believe though that a future kingdom could be better when we are very comfortable with our “stuff” in this world. It requires a real leap in faith to believe in God’s invisible promises for the future. This leap, the ability to “let go” is impossible for human beings. Human will power and strength are not enough to overcome the attraction and lure of possessions. Only God can accomplish what human strength cannot. For God all things are possible!

Letting go means having the ability to release from our grasp those things that inhibit us from developing an intimate relationship with the Jesus. For most of us, that means putting the needs of others before our own comfort and convenience and recognizing Jesus in others. Let us ask ourselves today: what keeps us from giving ourselves more completely to the Lord and why?