

### **3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: *What must I do to inherit eternal life?***

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Aloha Family!

We, that are parents, know that our children can ask some great questions. They have a way of asking what seems to be a simple question on the surface but in reality, the question is more significant than we may think! For example, they might ask us: “*Where does my cat go when he dies?*” or: “*Who made God?*” As we become adults we ask more probing questions, questions of greater meaning.

In today’s gospel a man of great wealth asks Jesus such question! A question whose answer will have great meaning! He asks Jesus: “*What must I do to inherit eternal life?*” The importance of this question to him and his anxiousness to have it answered no doubt cause him to run up to Jesus and falling at His feet to ask it! The answer to this question mattered to him and it also matters to all of us here today.

This man of great wealth was clearly a good man. He lived his whole life keeping the Ten Commandments. He took the practice of his faith seriously. And yet he sensed that there was something lacking in his relationship with God. There was a restlessness in him that would not be satisfied until he asked Jesus this consequential question and got His answer!

Many of us here today, at this Mass, might feel that we have a lot in common with this man. We may not have his wealth, but we are all probably like him doing our very best to live our lives in accordance with the teachings of our faith. We are trying our best to live daily by the values of the gospel. And yet, like this man, there are times in our lives when we feel that there must be something more that we must do.

If we feel this restlessness from time to time believe it or not - it’s a good thing! It’s a sign that we have remained open to the Lord’s call. And, because we remain open to His call, we will always be seekers looking beyond where we are now in our lives to find our way to having an even deeper relationship with our God.

In the gospel reading Jesus still looked upon the rich man with love! What Jesus tells him however confirms for him that there really was something lacking in his life just as he suspected! Jesus tells him: “*There is ONE THING you lack!*”

Jesus challenges the man to make a choice! Either give all his love to God alone or hold on to what he felt was important to him in his life! The “ONE THING” he was not willing to let go of was the love of his wealth! The man discovered, to his great sadness, that he could not do what Jesus was telling him to do! He could not live with the answer Jesus gave him to his question! He could not love God solely! Family, what is the “ONE THING” in your life that our Lord is calling you to make a choice to let go of ?

We may be aware of the times when we said ‘no I cannot’ to God’s calling. We may have even experienced the sadness that often comes when we found ourselves turning away from what God is asking of us! This may be because we sense that it would cause us to let go of something that we are clinging to like our time or our treasure or other things that we can’t seem let go of that separate us from a right relationship with our God!

Responding to the Lord’s call does require us to make sacrifices. Yet, we must remember that the success of whatever we asked to do has more to do with God than with us! Whatever He asks us to do is always for the glory of His kingdom! And, you know what is amazing family, He will always enable us to do what we cannot do on our own! For you see the ONE whom we receive in the Eucharist will empower us to do whatever God tell us to do when He answer our question: “*Lord, what must I DO to inherit eternal life?*”

St Thérèse of the Child Jesus help us to always be seekers looking beyond where we are now to find our little way to do that “ONE THING” our God is asking us to do so that we might, as a result, have a closer relationship with Him.

Peace be with you all!

Deacon Ray Lamb