

(Food for thought: Gospel: Mark 10: 17-30.)

“Agenda vs Commitment”



Today's Gospel is the beginning of two extraordinary, contrasting, and very familiar stories. The first may be understood as an ultimately failed initiative, and the second as a successful response to a call. The first, of course, is the story we know as "The rich young man," - although he may not have been rich nor young - and the second is the story of blind Bartimaeus.

There is a basic difference between taking an initiative and responding to a call. In the first instance, the movement starts from within: an individual is the initiator. In the second case, it starts outside the individual: another person is the initiator. Throughout the Gospels,

we see many instances when Jesus initiates the call to discipleship; but throughout Jesus' life and ministry, those who take initiatives do not always become disciples.

Each of us shall have to take this gospel to heart. We need to examine our own perspectives and strip away our illusions. Discipleship requires new kinds of relationships, new kinds of community. Rugged individualism is simply not adequate. What God wants to give cannot be purchased or earned.

Like the man in today's gospel, we need to ask ourselves: "Right now, at this stage of our lives, what must we do to be more responsive to the invitation Jesus is extending to us?" And rather than presupposing we know the answer to that question, we might pray for a

listening heart to the One who is saying,
"Come follow me."



Want to read more Sunday Reflections? Click [here](#).