

28TH SUNDAY – ORD. (B) (October 9/10, 2021)

GO, SELL WHAT YOU HAVE, AND COME, FOLLOW ME

If Jesus is to tell me now to go and sell everything and to come follow Him, what would be my response? My response will depend on what I have in mind to achieve in my Christian life; whether to go to heaven or lose my soul.

I want to go to heaven like the man who asked the question, but am I ready to choose the right means? Everyone who is starting life will have in mind to be successful and prosperous. His plan may be to make wealth and get a name for himself. Many people devise different ways and means to succeed, either fair or foul.

But Solomon when he succeeded his father David did not ask for riches. Solomon prayed and prudence was given him; he pleaded, and the spirit of Wisdom came to him. When Wisdom was given to him, he found Him more precious than anything else. The most precious objects like gold and silver were nothing compared with Wisdom. He loved Him more than beauty and health and preferred Him to light. He asked for Wisdom because he wanted to rule according to the will of God.

When he received Wisdom, he was given many valuable and good things in addition. Thus, instead of losing what many people crave for, he gained more precious things. This is contrary to what we heard in the gospel. The rich man was not ready to choose Wisdom. He preferred earthly riches to salvation. He went away sad. He thought it was enough just to obey the commandments. Was he disappointed by the response from Jesus?

The Jews thought that rich people were blessed by God so they would go to heaven and, also obeying the commandments was a sure way of going to heaven. That was why the Pharisee who went to the Temple to pray with the Publican boasted that he was not like everybody, he fasted and prayed all the time, (Lk.18:10-12). This explains why the disciples too were surprised by the response from Jesus.

Who is this wisdom? He is Jesus Himself; the Wisdom of God and the Power of God, (1Cor.1:24). The Spirit of Jesus filled Solomon to be able to discern good from evil. Again, Jesus is the Word the second reading is talking about; the Word through whom everything was made. In Jesus we encounter

Wisdom, the living and effective Word of God. The Word that scrutinizes our thoughts, words and actions.

“Jesus looking upon the man loved him”, why? Probably Jesus saw something good in him but he needed to do more. Jesus loves us and wants us to do more than we are doing now. Solomon prefers Wisdom to everything, loving Him more than life itself and he got many other good things. What are the many possessions that keep us from giving ourselves totally to God? What are we clinging to – material things, comfort zones, relationships? What is in my life that is making my salvation difficult? What am I to dispose of in my life? Do I know them, or are they (delete) hidden from me?

We need Jesus to open our hearts to know all the good and bad things stored in them, so that we can bring out the filthy things kept there. We need Wisdom to help us perceive what is ultimately important in life.

Jesus today wants us to know that it is not enough to pray, to give alms, to come to church, give food to the poor, and many other activities we undertake. We need Him to direct our lives. He is inviting us today, “come follow me”.