

"Jesus looked at him and loved him." (Mk 10, v 21)

This loving look of Jesus is a summary and synthesis of the entire Gospel.

It reminds us of the Book of Genesis. After the creation of human beings, "male and female" (Gen 1, v27), "God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good." (Gen 1v 31).

That very first loving look of the Creator is reflected in the loving look of Jesus. Christ will prove this "look" with His redemptive Sacrifice on the Cross.

Have we experienced this loving look of Jesus in all of it's depth and intensity? You and I, we certainly need this loving look. We have a deep need to know that we are loved, loved eternally, chosen from eternity. Hopefully we experience this look of love from parents, grandparents, a spouse, our children and our friends. Knowing that we are loved by God makes all things possible for us.

The Young Man in the Gospel was asking the wrong question. He said, "What must I do?" (Mk 10, v17) He was asking what kind of extra works or practices can I do to earn eternal life?

Jesus invites this young man, and invites each of us, to follow him with a total commitment, without reservations, holding nothing back. It is not enough for us to simply

"follow the rules: do good, be nice, don't hurt others."

Yes we should do all that, but following Jesus is about surrendering our lives to the One who loves us perfectly.

It is much more than just following a set of commandments.

Jesus asked much of this young man, "sell everything..."

We are not asked to do that. (thank goodness!) But Jesus asks us to get rid of anything and everything that keeps us from completely surrendering our lives to Him.

The man's face fell. He went away sad. (Mk 10, v22) The disciples were amazed and astonished. (Mk 10, v 24 & 26) They said, "Then who can be saved?" (v 26) They were assuming that wealth is a blessing from God that also guaranteed salvation. That wealth made salvation easier. Jesus says no. Often our possessions, possess (or control/manipulate) us.

Salvation is God's gift to us. The only way to receive it is by surrendering ourselves. We are saved when we allow Jesus to be the Lord of our lives, the Lord of all that we are and all that we have.

What does the first reading and the book of Wisdom teach us about this truth? The one who is wise prefers God's wisdom and God's ways before riches, power, health or the esteem of others.

Jesus says today "All things are possible for God." (Mk 10, v27) In the Eucharist, Jesus looks at each of us with love, with incomparable affection. Let us receive, accept and rejoice in this look of love from Jesus today.