

The Rich Man in the Gospels

The Gospel account of the rich man appears in Mark, Matthew and Luke; in Mark, he is simply called the rich man (Mark 10:17-31), in Matthew he is called the rich young man (Matthew 19:16-30), and in Luke he is called the rich official (Luke 18:18-30). All three Gospels are quite consistent on the conversation between the rich man and Jesus. The rich man asked Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" As Jesus pointed out the commandments, "You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother," the rich man replied, "All of these I have observed from my youth." (cf. Mark 10:20, Matthew 19:20, Luke 18:21) By most standards, the rich man would be considered a decent man; he lived by the commandments and he never did anything seriously bad. But that is not enough for Jesus. And to the decent men and women who desire to inherit eternal life, Jesus says, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me" (cf. Mark 10:21, Matthew 19:20, Luke 18:22) When the rich man heard what Jesus said, he went away sad, for he was very rich (Luke 18:23). There is no doubt that Jesus was telling the rich man to give up his possessions and give it all to the poor, so that he will have treasure in heaven. All three Gospels literally say that. But Jesus did not stop there; Jesus also told the rich man to come follow Him. The hardest part of what Jesus asked of the



rich man was not the giving up of his possessions and giving it to the poor, because with all his connections to other rich people, family, friends, relatives and business associates, the man could always rebuild his fortune, even if at one time in his life, gave it all away. However, Jesus asked the rich man to come follow Him, which would take away any chance for the man to become rich again. Jesus did not ask the rich man to part with his possessions just once in his life; Jesus asked the rich man to put all his wealth behind him once and for all and become a disciple, to follow Him wherever He went. In that case, the rich man would remain poor for the rest of his life. It is this radical change from having been so rich to choosing to become poor which made him go away sad because if he chose to follow Jesus, it will be a lifelong change with no turning back.

Time and again, Jesus may ask us to do certain things in life. Most of the time, we readily oblige and do it, because it is temporary, and after we do it, we can go back to our former way of life that we have grown so comfortable with. However, if Jesus asks us to make a lifelong change, then we find ourselves unable to oblige immediately and sometimes even go away sad because we just could not do what Jesus asked us to do. Making a lifelong change is more difficult than for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle. But the Good News is that as Jesus said, at times when things seem impossible for us human beings, it is not impossible for God. With God's grace, we can do what we thought was impossible (cf. Mark 10:27). Is there anything we can do to cooperate more freely with this grace? Yes, the more we devote ourselves to worldly things, the more insensitive we become to spiritual things.

To those who say yes to Jesus' call for a lifelong change, Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come" (Mark 10:29-30)

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每周公告 Weekly Bulletin

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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 20 is potluck Sunday! This is a great activity for everyone to foster fellowship in our church community. If you are celebrating your birthday in the month of October, we have ordered a birthday cake for you. Lunch begins after the 10:30am Mass. Please bring your favorite dish to share.



Thanksgiving Day Mass will be held on Thursday, November 28 at 11:00 am. In the spirit of giving thanks to God for all the blessings we have received, each family will receive a small bag of blessed rice!



One Body of Christ!

Reserve the date: Fr. Bill encourages all parishioners to make plans to participate in the Eucharistic Congress in Atlanta next year on June 20-21, 2025. Our church will host the first-ever Chinese Track in the Eucharistic Congress. This is an incredible opportunity for all of us to see and experience the great number of Catholics in Atlanta united under the

Attention Parish Council members: we will have a meeting this Sunday after the 10:30am Mass in the conference room.



Are you an adult and have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation? If so, we invite you to join our Confirmation program to prepare you for the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil in 2025. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Bill.

Prayer List: Eva Mullins, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing, Pan Bohao and Xu Taicheng.

**We are Here
to Listen
and Take
Action**

**我们随时倾听
并采取行动**

Archdiocesan 24 hour
Abuse Reporting Hotline
总主教区24小时
虐待举报热线
**1-888-437-
0764**

Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	Sundays 9:00-9:30 AM	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)	Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 PM	Mondays 6:00 PM (English)
	By Appointment	
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)		Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	Anointing of the Sick	Sundays 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Tuesdays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 7:00 PM (English)		
First Saturday 10:00 AM (Chinese)		