

Monday 8th in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (Mk 10,17-27): Just as Jesus was setting out on his journey again, a man ran up, knelt before him and asked, «Good Master, what must I do to have eternal life?». Jesus answered, «(...) You know the commandments: Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not cheat, honor your father and mother». The man replied, «I have obeyed all these commandments since my childhood». Then Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him and he said, «For you, one thing is lacking. Go, sell what you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come and follow me». On hearing these words, his face fell and he went away sorrowful for he was a man of great wealth (...).

Christian poverty: detachment from earthly riches

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, we cross the "anonymous" figure of the "rich young man". If he had responded positively to the invitation of Jesus, he would have become his disciple and we would now probably know his name. If man puts his trust in the riches of this world, he will not reach the full sense of life and of true joy.

Jesus, therefore, can truly guarantee a happy existence and eternal life, but by a route different from what the rich young man imagines: that is, not through a good work, a legal tribute, but rather in the choice of the Kingdom of God as the "precious pearl" for which it is worth selling all that one possesses. The rich youth is not able to take this step. Notwithstanding that he has been the object of the loving gaze of Jesus, his heart is not able to detach itself from the many goods that he possessed.

—Jesus does not say the earthly riches are bad, but that they distance one from God

if they are not, so to speak, "invested" for the Kingdom of Heaven.