

Benilde-St. Margaret's Scripture Theme 2010-2011

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments..." The man replied and said to him, "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you own, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

(Mark 10:17-21)

Brief background:

A young man, showing great respect and reverence by kneeling before Jesus, exhibits a strong desire for salvation by anxiously asking Jesus what must be done for eternal life. Jesus consistently reflects and points back to God, first, by saying that no one is good but God alone. Second, Jesus acknowledges the importance of the commandments set by God but hints that knowing the commandments and following them through love of neighbor are different. Jesus is ultimately concerned with what is standing between you and God. Understanding this young man well, Jesus knew it was his possessions that stood in the way. Jesus never says possessions are bad, but when they prevent right relationship between you and God or between you and others, then it's time to let go of them.

Questions for

Reflection

- What is standing between you and God?
- How do you use your resources wisely and prudently?
- Who are the poor among us?
- Jesus asks us to give our whole selves to follow him. What do you need to let go of in order to follow Jesus in your vocation?
- How do the gifts of simplicity and conservation relate to this gospel message?

Suggestions for use:

- Post in your room or office to serve as a reminder of our theme and the greater mission of our school.
- Read before meetings (individually or as a group) as a reminder of the greater mission of our school, not our personal agenda. God hears us, guides us, and will provide direction. Just like the young man, Jesus knows us well and will guide us from those things that get between God and us.
- Use as a prayer, individually or with a group before a gathering.
- When you are having a hard day, reflect on the passage and questions calling to mind that despite the challenge Jesus is calling us to follow him and be closer to God.
- Use it as a reminder that you have been called by God to serve the BSM community in this place and time, and God's presence resides in you and your work and you will have treasure in heaven.