

Look Book Took  
October 15, 2018  
Year B, Proper 23  
Wealth and Eternal Life

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Look:**

If you had to pack for a trip as light as possible, what would you have to bring? What could you leave behind?

**Book:**

Mark 10:17-31

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is

impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

1. Why might Jesus say “why do you call me good?” Is he switching attention to God instead of himself?
2. Why do you think such a moral and upstanding man would ask the question about eternal life? Wouldn't he have nothing to worry about if he has obeyed all his commandments since youth?
3. Matthew and Luke also have this story in their Gospels. Mark's is the only one in which the text says, Jesus “loved him.” What does that add to this story?
4. Why do you think Jesus did not accept the rich ruler as he was? He was probably more moral than the disciples? (There is not a wrong answer here).
5. If the man was so faithful, keeping all of the commandments, why do you think he did not do as Jesus said? (again, no wrong answer).
6. The disciples left their safety nets (literally in some cases) to follow Jesus. They were first. What do you think they feel if the “first will be last and the last will be first?”
7. Do you think wealth is bad? Good? (You can continue this question below).

**Took:**

What makes you feel in control in your life? (Organization, job, money, etc?)

How do you think wealth can get in the way of following Christ?

How do you think lack of wealth can get in the way of following Christ?

Do you think control in this life is possible? What makes you feel in control? What makes you feel out of control?

What if wealth is neither good nor bad, but morally neutral? It can still be an impediment. How might one have wealth and not let it be an impediment to following Christ?

If you did not have to worry about money, what would be your life's purpose?

What makes you feel secure in this life? What would anchor you if you did not have those things?

What is "eternal life," as mentioned above? (There is not a wrong answer.)