



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 13, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

“Eternal Life, our Goal!”

The question of the man in the Gospel we hear this Sunday leads us to ask ourselves, what does it take to inherit eternal life? Jesus points to this man and says he must observe the commandments. He claims that he has done so since his youth. Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said that he lacked in one thing. He commands him to go and sell what he had and give it to the poor in exchange for the treasures of heaven and to follow him. The words of Jesus made this man walk away sad, for he cannot give up his possessions.

Jesus makes it clear, first and foremost, that to attain eternal life, we need to follow the commandments. Sacred Scriptures state these commandments for us and cannot be ignored or changed. The Church teaches us to faithfully carry out these commandments in our day-to-day lives. Jesus teaches us that we need to practice them in word and deed, not just think about or talk about them.

Secondly, Jesus clarifies that riches can hinder us from attaining eternal life. This happens when we are too attached to things and not with the Lord. Riches per se are not bad; they can help us live our lives for the better, if not for the best. But when riches become our primary concern and ignoring the needs of those around us, especially the poor, we have to think otherwise. If possessions make us forget our relationship with God, our neighbor, and our call to follow the Lord, then right now, we need to refocus our minds and hearts. God always offers the gift of eternal life. If we want to attain this gift, we also take the responsibility to treasure it and live accordingly as sons and daughters of God.

We live in a society that pursues riches and power. We cling to these, not realizing that we are missing what we truly need, like care for our family, attending Mass on Sundays, and receiving the Sacraments often, especially the Sacrament of Confession. Besides these, we have changed God’s commandments with man’s commandments that emphasize the world of Me, Myself, and I. What only matters is Here and Now and no more Hereafter.

Death is inevitable, but although this is the truth and reality while living on this earth, we need to focus on how we can gain eternal life. Depending on or relying on riches cannot save us when our time comes. But depending on or relying on God can save us even when we die. It can also inspire us to treasure the lives He has given us and push us to think of the goodness of other people. Our life of discipleship can help us grow in faith through loving God and loving our neighbors!

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual