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Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" (Mark 10:23)

Jesus continues to teach about what it means to follow him. The man in Mark 10:17-22 insists that he has always kept the commandments which deal with relationships among people, but what about his relationship with God? Jesus seems to recognize that the man puts his trust in his own piety, wealth, and in his achievements. Jesus had been teaching his disciples about dangers of wealth as one that hampers relationship with God. Here Jesus tests this man. His love for money was greater than following Jesus. Wealth was seen as a sign of God's favor, but in this young man's case, it gets in the way of true discipleship.

There are many things that hinder us from living a full life here and in the hereafter; money is just one of them. As the man walks away, Jesus tells the disciples how hard it is for the rich to participate in God's kingdom. The love for money results in greed, accumulation of wealth leads to pride and all such attitudes are contrary to kingdom values. Love of money is at the root of a broken relationship with God. Money itself is not bad, but love for money is hindrance to the establishment of kingdom.

Prayer

God, you continually remind us about the dangers of wealth. In our world, which is marked by open economy, where the rich are becoming richer, we pray for economic equality of all. Amen.