

**28<sup>th</sup> Sunday Homily B Cycle, 10-14-18**

**God is Good!**

**All the time.**

**Eric Strand, Rosmary Burke's son who went home to the Lord a year ago and remember in a special way today.**

**Eric's words:**

**Lord, "your goodness overwhelms me!**

**Thank you for being so good and living inside of my heart."**

**The goodness of God is so well reflected in the two young children who we welcome into our faith-family today.**

**GOD IS GOOD!**

**A man runs up to Jesus = eager.**

**Kneels before him = respectful**

**He is a SEEKER.**

**"Good master, what must I DO to inherit eternal life?"**

**Why do you call me Good? Only God is Good. What does this comment, "God is Good" have to do with how am I to inherit eternal life?**

Jesus' response, at first glance, is rather odd.

Jesus is challenging the seeker.

The man is seeking to inherit eternal life simply by keeping the commandments; Jesus says that he will have to switch his focus to the Goodness of God!

Here is the point: Eternal life is a gift from God. It is pure gift!

This is why Jesus is focusing on the Goodness of God.

The man is doing the best he can to inherit the goodness of God.

The man had been doing his best to earn eternal life.

So Jesus continues the dialogue by speaking directly to where the man is in his spiritual journey.

Jesus tells him, "Keep the commandments. Do not steal do not commit adultery, honor your father and your mother."

The man responds, "I have kept the commandments from my youth!"

FROM my YOUTH. Here is his problem with inheriting eternal life.

This is man with a youthful spirituality, it's good but needs growth in wisdom.

What he has been doing (keeping the commandments) has brought him to Jesus... and that is good.

**And so Jesus looks at him and LOVES him and says,  
“If you really want to inherit eternal life, go, sell all that you have,  
give it to the poor and come and follow me.  
Jesus invites him to a mature spirituality.**

**What he is saying to the man is: IF YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT GOD IS  
GOOD and will supply all that you need.**

**LIVE OUT THAT BELIEF!**

**GIVE ALL YOU HAVE TO THE POOR,**

**AND COME AND FOLLOW ME.**

**That kind of mature spirituality of giving all that we have and  
following the Lord of all Goodness reminds me of a scene from the life  
of St. Francis of Assisi.**

**Story of St. Francis:**

- **Thirteenth century town of Assisi, Italy**
- **Born into a family of the burgeoning middle class.**
- **His father sold fine linen and wanted his son to follow in his  
footsteps.**
- **Not the path of Francis.**
- **Disillusioned as a young adult after coming back from one of the  
crusades.**
- **Father was very disappointed with his son.**

In a scene of the movie, "Brother Son, Sister Moon, the director Fellini, has Francis' father dragging his son before the bishop of the town in front of all the people to denounce his behavior. He says to Francis, I haven't given you everything and you do nothing with it. I give you the very clothes on your back! Then Francis, in a pivotal act of his life, removes all his clothing, picks them up, walks up to his father, hands him his clothes and says, with respect " You are not my father, God is my father." And then walks out of town placing his total trust in God.

**PAUSE**

And Jesus said to the seeker in today's gospel, "If you would be perfect, go, sell all that you have, give it to the poor, and come follow me." If you really believe I am good, the source of all goodness, trust me!

The seeker goes off sad because he has many possessions and is not yet ready to trust totally in the goodness of God.

Yet we say: God is good! (All the time!) Hmmm!

**Jesus now turns to his disciples. He says, “How hard it is to enter the kingdom of Heaven. It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. “**

**His disciples are those who have ALREADY GIVEN UP EVERYTHING to follow Jesus, who have made Jesus the center of our lives, Jesus is speaking to them... and to us, who have chosen to be his disciples.**

**Then, Peter, in the name of all disciples of the Lord, asks the critical question. “How will things work out for us who have left home, or family, or possessions to follow you because we believe you are Good and the source of eternal life? What will be get out of this?**

**Jesus’ answer is simple. You will get all you need in this life, and fullness of life with me forever.**

**It is not that Jesus is asking us to all live out on the streets or in utter poverty. We have families to take care of and basic needs to attend to. But at the core of our being, if we are to develop a mature spirituality, then just keeping the commandments is at best, a youthful take on our relationship with God.**

If we really want to inherit eternal life NOW and in the future, we need to do just one thing: truly believe that God is good, and trust that the Lord will supply all we need. Then we will be free as his disciples to share that good news with our children, our families, our neighbors and even our enemies... yes, share the news that God is Good in both our words and deeds.

I would like to give you some Holy Homework for the coming week: This week, simply ask yourself if you truly believe that God is good, infinitely good. Your answer can change your life.