

## Message Reflection Guide for Jan 09 2022

### Read Mark 10: 17-22

The gesture of kneeling before Jesus had already been encountered in the story about Jairus, the ruler of one of the Galilean synagogues. It was a gesture that in the honour code of the culture put Jesus under pressure to respond graciously. The same dynamic was behind his addressing Jesus as Good Teacher.

The man's question expressed perhaps his general attitude towards life. He talked about inheritance, as though eternal life could be inherited by right. Among the wealthy of the society, inheritance rights were taken for granted.

Consistent with his assumptions about inheriting, the man also asked what he must do. The question perhaps assumed that the outcome was in his own hands: he would be in control and he could bring it about if he did the right things. In his addiction to goodness, he saw himself as its author. But the Kingdom was gift, gained precisely by letting go of control and learning instead to trust God. – **Fr John McKinnon**

### Discussion Questions:

What does the way the man approaches Jesus tell you about his sincerity? What makes sincerity important to our discipleship?

In Jesus' partial listing of the 10 Commandments, why do you think He says "do not defraud" instead of "do not covet?"

How are Jesus' words an expression of love "Jesus . . . loved him" in v. 21?

How is sharing our faith to others and expression of love?

Pastor Jason shared a story of seeing the seeds of evangelism produce fruit many years later. Do you have a similar story?

What were Jesus' commands (go, sell, give, come, follow) designed to reveal about the man, and how do you know they succeeded? If Jesus said this to you, what would have been revealed about yourself?

Why could the man not obey Jesus' commands? Would you have been able to obey Jesus's radical command? How can your testimony of following Jesus even when it is difficult, be a witness to others?

Jesus challenges the man but does not try to control him. Why is this important when we share our faith with our neighbors?

**Pray for the people on your BLESS list.**