



DISCERNMENT

Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." -MATTHEW 19:21

SCRIPTURE

THE RICH YOUNG MAN (Mt 19:16-30)^[1]

Now someone approached him and said, "Teacher, what good must I do to gain eternal life?"

He answered him, "Why do you ask me about the good? There is only One who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments."

He asked him, "Which ones?"

And Jesus replied, "You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; honor your father and your mother'; and 'you shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

The young man said to him, "All of these I have observed. What do I still lack?"

Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this statement, he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Amen, I say to you, it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and said, "Who then can be saved?"



Jesus looked at them and said, "For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible."

Then Peter said to him in reply, "We have given up everything and followed you. What will there be for us?"

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me, in the new age, when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory, will yourselves sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life."

^[1] Scripture taken from the New American Bible, Revised Edition, available at <http://www.usccb.org/bible/books-of-the-bible/>.





HOMEWORK: WHAT COULD I LIVE WITHOUT?

A PRAYER/WRITING EXERCISE

FOR GIRLS

Use your imagination to write or pray about the best life possible in each of the following vocations:

- Life as a contemplative religious sister
- Life as an active religious sister
- Life as a wife and mother

For example, imagine every aspect of meeting a good man, getting married, and having children. Imagine your career, your family vacations, your joy at holding your first grandchild. Imagine being happy in your marriage. And now imagine your death, as you prepare to meet God face to face, with your family gathered at your bedside.

Then imagine finding a religious order where you felt at home, where the sisters became your closest friends for life. Imagine how your love for God grows over the years, and the intimacy you feel as a Bride of Christ. Think of the work you will do, perhaps teaching, bringing hope to the poor, helping others find Jesus through their joys and sorrows. Imagine yourself happy in this life. And then imagine your death, surrounded by your sisters, confident in eternal life.

FOR GUYS

Use your imagination to write or pray about the best life possible in each of the following vocations:

- Life as a contemplative/active religious brother (your choice)
- Life as a priest
- Life as a husband and father

For example, imagine every aspect of meeting a good woman, getting married, and having children. Imagine your career, your family vacations, your joy at holding your first grandchild. Imagine being happy in your marriage. And now imagine your death, as you prepare to meet God face to face, with your family gathered at your bedside.

Now imagine entering seminary to become a priest. Imagine how you grow in virtue over the years, and that after ordination, you are completely focused on bringing people to Jesus—through the sacraments, through your counseling, and through your preaching. Think of the thousands of babies you will baptize, the thousands of people whom you will teach to love God. Imagine yourself happy in this life. And now imagine yourself as a very old priest, loved by the people, who approaches death with peace, thankful for having lived a good life, and ready to spend eternity with Jesus in Heaven.

WHAT COULD I LIVE WITHOUT?

After you complete a wonderful description of each possible life, think about them. Ask yourself, **“Each life is wonderful! But God made *me* with unique traits and desires. Which life could I do without? Which life would it be hardest for me to say goodbye to?” To which life is God calling me?** Think and pray about this.

Note: This is not supposed to be your defining moment in discernment, but it is helpful to think about. We should never choose a vocation because the other ones don’t appeal to us. Choose a vocation because God calls you to it, and has formed you and your life in such a way that your particular vocation will give even more joy than the other vocations would.