

What Do You Value?

Name: _____

Read the passages below from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke and answer the questions.

13 ⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid. Then, in his joy, he went and sold all that he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls. ⁴⁶When he found one pearl of great price, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

Mt 13:44-46

What do you value most in your life?

How would you respond if you were asked to give up what you value most in exchange for life in the Kingdom of God?

19 ¹⁶Behold, someone came to him and said, “Teacher, what good must I do to have eternal life?” ¹⁷But he said to him, “Why do you ask me about the good? There is one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

¹⁸He said to him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,

¹⁹Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁰The young man said to him, “All these I have kept. What do I still lack?” ²¹Jesus 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. And come, follow me.” ²²But when the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Mt 19:16-22

Why did the rich young man not follow Christ?

14¹⁵When one of those who sat at table with him heard this, he said to him, “Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!” ¹⁶But he said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; ¹⁷and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready.’ ¹⁸But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; please, have me excused.’ ¹⁹And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; please, have me excused.’ ²⁰And another said, ‘I have

married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ ²¹So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ ²²And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ ²³And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. ²⁴For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’”

Why did the three people invited to the banquet refuse the invitation?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Reflection Questions

Why would someone refuse to give up his most valued possession?

Why is trust in God essential to make this leap of faith?

How can you grow to have a greater trust in God?

Living as a Witness

Name: _____

.....

Nearly one thousand years after Saint Francis renounced his inheritance in Assisi, Carlo Acutis was beatified in the same place. Blessed Carlo was born in 1991 in London, England, but moved to Milan, Italy, when he was very young. He has been described as an ordinary kid who enjoyed playing video games and watching movies. He was popular in school, and he intentionally befriended students who were lonely or struggling. Carlo firmly believed in Jesus’ promise of abundant life in the Kingdom of God and in Jesus’ true presence in the Eucharist. He gave witness to those truths by following the commands of Christ in order to attain full union with God in the kingdom. Because of his witness to Christ’s love and teachings, his parents, who had fallen away from Catholicism, returned to the practice of the faith.

Carlo was an ordinary student who lived a virtuous life. He enjoyed playing video games but practiced the virtue of temperance and limited his time playing games to one hour each week. He was very interested in coding and chose to use that skill to give witness to Christ’s presence in the world by creating a website to record all the major eucharistic miracles throughout the world.

At the age of fifteen, Carlo was diagnosed with acute leukemia and died on October 12, 2006. In October 2020, Carlo Acutis was beatified, meaning that the Church formally recognized that Blessed Carlo is in Heaven and is one step away from being included in the official canon of saints.

Review Questions

What belief guided Blessed Carlo’s actions?

How did Carlo give witness to those truths?

Whom did he inspire through his witness?

Reflection Questions

How can you follow Blessed Carlo's example and use one of your interests or skills for the benefit of others?

How can you be a witness to Christ's love and teachings?

Contemplating the Truth

Name: _____

.....

Saint Dominic founded the Dominican order in A.D. 1216 to preach against heresy and thus to save souls. Since then, the Dominicans have grown and spread through the world, serving as friars, priests, sisters, nuns, and members of the lay fraternities of Saint Dominic. The Dominican order has several mottos that can show us much about how we are to live as Christians.

The motto “*Veritas*” is Latin for “truth.” That sums up the Dominican order quite well. The members are focused on the truth—on learning it, living by it, and sharing it. Ultimately, they are focused on *the* Truth, Jesus Christ himself. By focusing on the truth as it is revealed by Jesus, the Scriptures, and the teachings of the Church, they are not swayed by the ever-changing whims of the culture.

How can you keep your eyes focused on Jesus as the Truth?

Catholicism is based not on feelings but on the Truth, Jesus Christ himself, and is safeguarded by the Magisterium of the Church. How can you remind yourself of that reality when you are tempted to focus on what your feelings say rather than what the truth says?

Another motto of the Dominican order is “to contemplate and to give to others the fruits of contemplation.”¹ Contemplation is prayer that leads to a deep union with God himself. It is born from study, from learning about Christ, who is Truth, and then taking that knowledge to prayer.

In your life, too, you have the great opportunity to contemplate and give to others the fruits of contemplation. You can take seriously your responsibility as a student to always seek the truth and study well. You can take to prayer your knowledge in any subject and foster your relationship with God in the silence of your heart. And then you can use what you gain in prayer and share that with others so they learn how very good God is and how much he loves them.

How can you take more seriously your responsibility to be a student at this point in your life?

¹ “Mottos of the Order,” Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia, accessed June 20, 2024, www.nashvilledominican.org/community/our-dominican-heritage/mottos-of-the-order.

What subjects do you enjoy studying, and how can doing so be a source of contemplation to draw you closer to God?
