

In today's Gospel, Matthew 19:16-26, Jesus Christ was approached by a young rich man who asked an important question, "What deed must I do, to have eternal life?" He tells him that he should not kill, should not commit adultery, should not steal, should not bear false witness; he should honor his father and mother, and love his neighbor as himself. The young man having maintained these things in his life asked further, "What do I still lack?" When Jesus Christ tells him to sell everything he possesses, give it to the poor, and follow Him, the young man became sorrowful for he had "great possessions."

Dearest ones, does our relationship with God come first in our lives? Do we still have one thing lacking that we should work on for a deeper living relationship with God?

In the Gospel reading, it is a young rich man who is struggling to give up his possessions to have a relationship with God. But instead of possessions, are there other barriers to not placing God first? Maybe it is the pursuit of a career. Maybe it is various hobbies we may have like golf. Maybe it is the need to have a great fortune. Maybe it is our own family schedules.

Anything in our lives that we place above God to the point that it interferes with our relationship with Him makes us like the young rich man in the Gospel reading today.

So, what can we do? As Christ said, "with God all things are possible." We each must ask what we need to do to inherit eternal life by opening our hearts, souls, and minds to Him fully so that He may guide us in His ways. We must cultivate an ongoing relationship with God that goes beyond Sunday, throughout our lives, every minute of every day. It is this through prayer and supplication we ask in His name; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever, amen.