

Dear SPA Family,

It is not wrong to have wealth, possessions acquired in this world, which we have earned honestly. Jesus, using such images in his parables, does not so much criticize wealth, the possibility of possessing the goods of the world, but rather shows what happens to a person who disposes them badly. The awareness of possessions, the awareness of our wealth and independence from other people, can make us creatures focused only on having, and having more and more.

But all this is not everything. It can also make us 'non-human' who will not see anyone except ourselves and what we have. The other person will not be of greater value to us... unless he is perceived as an 'opportunity' to gain even more from him, earn some extra money, or possibly of show-off... let them admire.

As you read these words, you will probably think to yourself: look what kind of imagination Fr. Chris has! Yes, it's true, but look at the world in which you and me, the people of the 21st century, live. It seems that we live in times of abundance and incredible opportunities. A world so colorful, almost perfect, because that's how it is portrayed by marketing and sales specialists. Ask yourself: what value do you have today as a human being, as a person? Do not look at yourself through the prism of what education you have, how much you have, what you have achieved in your life. But look at yourself through the prism of something more basic - the value that is the human person ...

Jesus, assuming the human form, enters this world very imperceptibly, as a poor person. Why? On one side, He wanted to show closeness to people, but on the other hand, He desired to emphasize the value of a human being as a person. To emphasize that in His eyes everyone is important and each has its own value. And going to the poor, He turns the eyes of the rich to the true wealth to the true value that every human being has - not a thing, but a human person.

A scene from two thousand years ago, scene of Lazarus and a rich man is so relevant for us today. Let's get off our 'comfortable couch of life', go to the streets of our towns, and we will see and understand what Jesus is talking about today both to me and to you.

Reading this parable, I wonder what am I doing with what I have received from God? How do I manage it? To what extent what I have opens me to other people, and to what extent it closes me, making me blind to their needs.

Have a blessed week. Fr. Chris Ciastoń

