

MAY 25, 2021  
Tuesday of the 8<sup>th</sup> Week in OT  
Mark 10: 28-31

“RECEIVING A HUNDREDFOLD.”

There was a story of “a rich man who was concerned about his future salvation, would he ‘go to heaven’ or not. In order to motivate him, he asked God to be given a preview of heaven and hell. God agreed. God said that they would first pay a visit to hell. When they got there the man was greatly surprised. He was brought into a sumptuous dining room of a large restaurant all decorated in red and gold. In the centre was a large round table and on it were the most exotic and delicious dishes one could imagine. Around the table were seated the diners. They were the most miserable-looking group one could imagine, all sitting there motionless and in silence just looking at the beautiful food in front of them. The reason for their glumness was that they had been given chopsticks which were three feet long! There was no way they could get any of the food into their mouths. And they were going to sit there like that for eternity. That was hell! God then brought the man to heaven. Again he was amazed. Because they were in an identical banqueting room, with the same kind of table and the same wonderful food. But everybody was in the highest spirits. The sound of laughter rang out everywhere. They were really enjoying themselves and the meal. Was this because they had the normal length of chopsticks? No! They also had three-foot chopsticks but here everyone was reaching out food to people on the opposite side of the table. And that was heaven.”<sup>1</sup>

Brothers and sisters, happiness rely not on oneself or what I can get or what I have but how I share all things that I have. When we follow our Lord, we gain a treasure that is precious, valuable and priceless. Jesus is telling us: we gain what we share and give away, and we lose what we keep to ourselves. So, when Peter asked the Lord what they can gain from following Him, Jesus answered they will received blessings of a hundredfold. When we give to God, and to our brothers and sisters, it will come back more that what we ask for. The promised of joy, happiness and bliss

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<sup>1</sup> [livingspace.sacredspace.ie](http://livingspace.sacredspace.ie)

in the Kingdom of God is nothing compared to material wealth which are temporary, short-termed and short-lived. Nothing can rival the happiness in heaven, that's why, don't focus on what the world can give but on what we can gain in heaven through charity, generosity, love and forgiveness.

My brothers and sisters, let us ask in this Eucharist the grace to be firm in our decision to follow the Lord in spite of hardships and difficulties, persecution or ridicule, and relying on the provisions of the Lord, so that we can follow and gain eternal life with God in heaven, abundant in everything, where all are happy and sharing laughter. Here on earth everything is temporary but in heaven all are permanent. So, let us focus and do things for heaven in this world.