

Covenant Life

- **TODAY** is our next in-person Community Gathering at 4pm in the MSMCS gym (we are meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays).
- If you were unable to attend our last Gathering, you can listen to the audio [here](#), the Word Gift summary is [here](#) and the transcript is [here](#).
- This year we will celebrate Veterans Day on November 14th and will honor Community family members who are veterans or currently serve our country. Please send updates to Sue Wagner at s.wagner@msmcatholic.org
- Your ongoing financial support is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

Reflection - As I prayed about the readings today the Holy Spirit brought to focus the last few verses of the Gospel from Mark ([Mk 10:17-30](#)) where Jesus responds to Peter's question about the challenge of the rich entering the Kingdom of Heaven. *Jesus says "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come."*

As the Holy Spirit would have it this passage was one of four that the NAN leaders (who were in town this week for a retreat) spent Thursday morning meditating on. I cannot recall the last time I spent a half day on four scriptures, but I can say that it was a true blessing. While it was a delight to rest upon the assurance that no surrender or sacrifice for God would go unrewarded, I must confess, at first my initial thoughts were to start counting, analyzing, and trying to understand this assurance in the context of my own life. It did not take me very long to see the truth in this assurance.

Yes, God changes our desires, Yes He takes away our desires to accumulate possession and fame and power but this is not what Jesus said exactly. His words were "receive a hundred times more now in this present age". So, I kept meditating and, of course, the Community, you, came to mind. Absolutely, I was

raised with 100 mothers and fathers, brothers, and sisters. Yes, there are 100 homes in the Dallas area where I would be welcome, just as you would. There are 100s children who have grown up in Community and in our School and other ministries that we have all helped raise. Lord, You are true to Your Word! Your promises are real and experiential!

So Yes, there will be trials and persecutions, this is the way that Jesus showed us we must walk. BUT what is a wonderful source of hope and joy is that we have the assurance that if we will give up possessions and people for His sake, we will enjoy both a bountiful life on this earth AND the confidence of eternal life in the age to come. Wow.

It is easy to see why King Solomon prayed for wisdom. It is easy to see why the disciples gave up everything to follow Jesus. They understood and accepted God's promises and bet everything. They were *All In*. God asks the same of us. He wants our focus to be on Him and not the things of this age.

I end with a thank you. I thank God that you said yes to God and accepted His invitation to covenant. I thank you that you say yes to me and all the other covenant members of the Christian Community of God's Delight. It is because of our collective yes that we can see this promise fulfilled in our day. What a blessing it is to have our hope fulfilled in this present age as we await the coming age together. Let us redouble efforts to live our covenant with God and one another and respond daily to His call.

"Heavenly Father, I thank You for Your word and promises. I thank You for continuing to bring these words alive in my life today and every day. I recommit to seeking You, to living for You, to focusing on You instead of the temptations of this world. Show me today how to respond to the call You have placed on my life. I recommit to my covenant with You and my covenant sisters and brothers. I love You, my Lord and Savior."

God bless,

David