



**19 - 25 Apr, 2020**

**Jesus Christ, our Treasure, part 1**

**‘Our greatest gain is to lose the wealth  
that is of such brief duration  
and, by comparison with eternal things,  
of such little worth’ Saint Teresa of Avila**

**Jesus Christ and money**

- † Jesus Christ personified money showing its impact in our lives
- † *‘No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money’ (Mt 6:24)*

**Is being rich a blessing or a curse?**

- † Richness can be a blessing or a curse depending how we use it
- † As a blessing
  - *‘It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it’ Prv 10:22*
  - Money becomes subject to us; where the heart goes, money follows
- † As a curse
  - *‘And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, ‘How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the Kingdom of God’ Lk 18:24*

**Money is temporal, but the way we use it is eternal**

- † The way we use it is our choice
- † Our choice determines our eternal destiny

**Stewardship (Mt 25:14-30)**

- † The faithful steward knows that all he has is not his, it is God’s. *‘Everything belongs to God, and all things were created by His power’ Heb 2:10 CEV*

- † He knows that it is God who appointed him as manager. *'His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord' Mt 25:21*
- † He invests in it or spends it according to God's calling by sharing his possessions with his brothers and sisters on earth
- † The faithful steward is not tempted by his possessions and has everything put into perspective. He lives *'as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things' 2 Cor 6:1*

### A river not a dam (Lk 12: 16-21)

- † The ambassador for Christ, empties himself, and uses his possessions for building the Kingdom of Heaven on earth
- † Instead of storing them, he acts as a channel to make them reach where God desires
- † The rich man in Lk 12 gained nothing by storing his riches
- † The Venerable Beshara Abou Mrad received a pair of shoes from a woman when she saw him walking with torn shoes in his feet. He accepted the shoes and carried them under his arms. The woman told him to put them on because his shoes are torn. He gave them to a poor guy with no shoes instead
- † The third servant stored the money, did not use for anything bad and did not spend it on himself. Christ took it away from him since he did not fulfill his duty. He acted as a dam not as a river

### The use of money is not neutral

- † The first two stewards invested the money for God's glory, it increased and God put them in charge of larger matters
- † The best gain is when we do an investment with all our possessions for God's glory
- † Raymond Feghali gave his home in Broumana for CrossTalk

### The disciples regard Christ as their biggest and only treasure

- † The disciples have their own calculus of values different from that of the world
- † They do not go with the flow
- † A reporter, watching Mother Teresa of Calcutta cleaning the maggot-infested wound of a man on the street, told her, 'I would not

do what you are doing for a million dollars'. Mother Teresa replied immediately, 'Neither would I'

- † Antonio Vieira Montero died of the Corona virus. His daughter said that though he is very wealthy, he died alone, with no one next to him. He died because he needed the freely given air which he could not have. Even his funeral was without his daughter, since she had the corona virus

## Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

## Verse to memorize

'No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money' Matthew 6:24

## In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

### God acts

- † Christ gifted us with everything we have

### My reaction

- † Am I going to use what He gave me for His glory?
- † Am I going to help others detach and enjoy the glorious gift of giving?

## During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management

14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them

15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights

16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Maronite Church in prayer

قانون الايمان  
نؤمن بالله واحد  
اب ضابط الكل، خالق السماء والارض  
كل ما يرى وما لا يرى  
وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح  
ابن الله الوحيد، المولود من الاب قبل كل الدهور  
إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق  
مولود غير مخلوق، مساو للأب في الجوهر  
الذي به كان كل شيء  
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا  
نزل من السماء  
وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء  
وصار إنساناً  
وصلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي  
تألم ومات وقبر  
وقام في اليوم الثالث كما جاء في الكتب  
وصعد إلى السماء، وجلس عن يمين الله الأب  
وأيضاً يأتي بمجد عظيم  
ليدين الأحياء والأموات، الذي لا فناء لمملكه  
ونؤمن بالروح القدس  
الرب المحيي  
المنبثق من الأب والابن، الذي هو مع الأب والابن  
يُسجد له ويُعبد  
الناطق بالأنبياء والرسل  
وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية  
ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا  
ونترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة الجديدة  
في الدهر الآتي  
أمين

الصلاة الربانية

أبانا الذي في السموات  
ليتقدس إسمك  
ليأت ملكوتك  
ليتك مشيئتك  
كما في السماء  
كذلك على الأرض  
أعطنا خبزنا كفافاً يومنا  
واعفُ لنا ذنوبنا وخطايانا  
كما نحن نغفر  
لمن خطئ إلينا  
ولا ندخلنا في التجارب  
لكن نجنا من الشرير  
لأن لك الملك والقوة والمجد  
إلى أبد الأبد  
أمين