

To Ponder:

Mark 10: 15-31, was Patricia Datchuck Sanchez inspiration for her article in the National Catholic Reporter, "With God all is possible." "With God all is possible," was my inspiration for prayer. God's directions to all of us have always been about how to treat one another, to be able to reach outside of our own wants and needs to take care of one another. With God, all things are possible, and our part is to allow God to direct our actions. How many times can we look back and see God's providence brought to us by another person. God needs us to be the hands, feet, heart, ears... of compassion.

"Have you ever felt that the challenges of being an authentic disciple are just too great? Have you ever been overwhelmed by Jesus' teachings? Love your enemies; pray for your persecutors. When a person strikes you on the right cheek, turn and offer him the other. In giving alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Do not lay up for yourselves an earthly treasure. Store up treasure in heaven. Forgive without limit. Do not turn away the borrower. Sell what you have and give to the poor. Judge not, lest you be judged. Become as little children. Love one another as I have loved you. Repent and believe the good news."

Listening to Mark's Gospel, we can sense that Jesus' disciples were taken aback by the challenge he extended to the man with many possessions. The question put to Jesus was: "Then, who can be saved?" Jesus' response was intended to shift their focus from themselves to God: "For human beings, it is impossible ... all things are possible for God. "Jesus' ability to live among those on the fringes of society was one of his greatest examples and is our challenge.

"Every challenge, every demand Jesus places upon his disciples becomes possible if, by faith, the disciple has learned to rely on grace and to approach each challenge as an opportunity to respond to God's call. Both the disciples and the man who went away sad were focusing on themselves, their efforts, their obedience and their accomplishments instead of focusing on God and on grace." What comes along with the grace is the certainty that God loves each of us as he loved the rich man in the Gospel story.

Reading: Disturb us Lord

Sir Francis Drake

Disturb us, Lord,
when we are too well pleased
with ourselves,
when our dreams have come true
because we have dreamed too little
when we arrived safely
because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when
with the abundance of things we possess
we have lost our thirst
for the waters of life;
having fallen in love with life,
we have ceased to dream of eternity
and in our efforts to build a new earth
we have allowed our vision
of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
to venture on wider seas
where storms will show Your mastery;
where losing sight of land,
we shall find the stars.
We ask you to push back
the horizons of our hopes;
and to push into the future
in strength, courage, hope, and love.

sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...

Well I walk right on by him when he asked me for some money
I just wanted a cup of coffee and a place to rest my feet
But then I saw him a little later
exchanging greeting with the waiter
while he was going over his days receipts
He was counting up his blessings in the corner of the diner
In stacks of dimes and quarters only he arranged
Oh working the crowds on Bourbon Street
means many hours on your feet just to make a little change

Refrain: Just a little bit of change to comfort the afflicted
A little bit of change to ease a little bit of pain
Ooh a little bit of change is going to afflict the comfortable
We're both working for a little bit of change

So I took out two quarters and I sat down at his table
I said you gotta do what you are able
but that's a lot of work just to buy an iced tea.
And he told me his name when I told him mine
And he let me look into his eyes
And he said that he hoped the good Lord would bless me

Refrain— With a little bit of change to comfort the afflicted
A little bit of change to ease a little bit of pain
Oh a little bit of change is going to afflict the comfortable
That's why I'm workin for a little bit of change

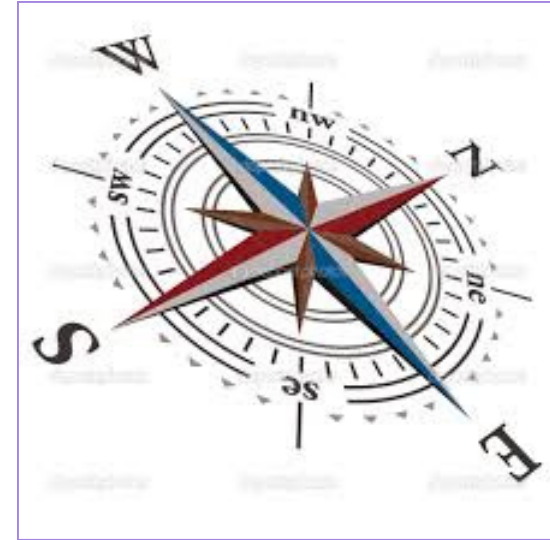
Now he did not dance and he didn't sing
Like everybody else in New Orleans
Who is trying to make a living with a tip box at their feet
And while the rich get richer and the poor stay poor
Where you gotta have a lot before you get anymore
I think, I think that what this old world really needs is

Refrain; (1st refrain)

Now it was just a small investment in the future of another
I know it might have been a risky venture
cuz I do not know how he spends his loot
But there's an equal risk in serving
only the ones you deem deserving
cuz the measure that you measure with
will be measured back to you.

Did you make a little change to comfort the afflicted
Did you make a little change to ease a little bit of pain
Did you make a little change to afflict the comfortable
Were you working for a little bit of change
or were you waiting for somebody else to change

In All Things, God Directs Us



Our prayer is characterized
by silence

Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.
God is present in all our lives.
God cares for us, and
our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.
Inspired by God's Word in the silence
we share from our hearts.

Thank you for joining us! Mary Timko 10-20-15