

**28th Sunday in
Ordinary Time
October 13-14, 2018**

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Living Catholic in the 808: Salvation Is Not Earned, It Is Received

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Our Lady of Peace**

As the Book of Wisdom and Hebrews remind us, God's word is perfectly wise and insightful. In today's gospel story, three important points express this wisdom and the incisiveness of God's word.

First of all, the man's question to Jesus reveals a basic misunderstanding of the nature of God's saving grace. The question is not "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" The question is "Do I understand what God has done, in Christ, to make eternal life possible for me, and am I willing to accept this gift?" Salvation is not earned, it is received.

Secondly, as he did for this man in the gospel, Jesus looks on us with love and invites us to "one more thing". Because he loves us, he challenges us to ask ourselves: "What have I been holding on to so that God can't take hold of me?"

Finally, for this man in the gospel (and perhaps for us), his possessions had possession of him. Is the matter and "stuff" of our lives a road to experiencing the kingdom of God or is it a roadblock that causes us to detour or never make it there?

As Jesus reminds us today, "All things are possible for God". It is even possible for us to let go so that God can take hold of us.