

Reflection for Sunday, October 10, 2021

The Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

from Jon Metz

St Ignatius of Loyola taught a prayer for indifference. This is confusing. One could interpret that as a lack of caring, but it is not. St Ignatius prayed for indifference because he said whatever your life circumstances are could bring you closer to God. Five hundred years ago Saint Ignatius sustained a traumatic injury to his leg from a cannonball while he was in battle as a soldier. This event shattered his self-perception, but it also brought him closer to God. He had to let go of his identity as a soldier, but this opened his heart to scripture and the lives of the saints. For this reason, Ignatius said do not pray for your life to be different because it could be in your poverty or riches, sickness or health that you are brought to God. The key is being open to hearing the will of God in whatever circumstance one finds themselves.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the rich young man to sell all that he has and follow him. The rich young man's face fell, and he walked away sad. It did not matter so much that the man was rich. It mattered that he was overly attached to his wealth. He let his circumstances get in the way of his following Christ. As we continue to foster our own discipleship, let us not focus on a desired change in our circumstance. Also, let us not focus on an over attachment to our circumstances, because it does not matter if we are rich or poor, healthy or sick. What matters is that we open our hearts to what God is trying to teach us. If we are open to the spirit of God, we will be led in the right direction.

- Do your life circumstances get in the way of following God's call?
- What can we learn from St Ignatius' prayer of indifference?
- How will you listen for the voice of God today?