

Fr. General Arturo Sosa, S.J.
Eighth Monday in Ordinary Time
Homily
Raipur (India)
February 27, 2017

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius teach us how to deal with our “inordinate attachments” (*afectos desordenados*). We can imagine how many times Ignatius would have contemplated the scene of today’s gospel and how he would have been in total agreement with Jesus’ exclamation: *How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God.*

Wealth is not only gold, money, properties or any material possession... Ignatius and the Gospel refer to all kinds of attachments, especially those coming from the affect; they rob us of our freedom to follow God’s call.

The disciples were *exceedingly astonished* at hearing Jesus comments. It is really amazing that after the loving look of Jesus to the young man, who seems to sincerely desire to serve God better, he just went away because his many possessions were more important to him than the freedom to follow God’s will.

We also have received a similar loving look from Jesus. That is why we are in the Society and we have pronounced our vows. We desire to be free from any attachment that could become an obstacle to our desire of being companions of Jesus. However, many a time, we too have gone *away sad*. Our affects have become traps for our sincere desire to follow Jesus...

Our experience confirms what Jesus told his disciples: *for men it is impossible* to achieve salvation... We know very well that we are companions of Jesus because of God’s mercy towards us.

The contemplation of today’s Gospel is an invitation to put all our hope in God and in God alone. He alone can help us realize our desires to sell everything we have and give ourselves to others. He alone can give us the faith we need to make this possible.