

28th Sunday of Ordinary Time - October 13, 2024
Homily by +Bp. Romie- Jun Peñalosa

There was a story of a man, when he was still in college, his parents were poor so he had to work, he was a working student. And so in the evening he studied, in the morning he works as a janitor. He was a janitor in a fast-food center, then in the afternoon he works in the school, he was also a janitor, so that he could get his tuition for free. His course was supposed to be four years long, but it took him six years to finish because he had to work. He was very diligent, very patient. Then after graduating from college, he had to find work. And there, it was also difficult to find a job. So every night he would cry in his bed, there was no food because there was no job. He just cried and cried, prayed and prayed. Then if fast-forward after how many years, he became a very wealthy businessman. You know, sometimes hardship prepares ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny. So don't be afraid if you are having a hard time in life, especially for our young people. You know, don't be afraid, God must be preparing you for something. And so he became very wealthy, he really became rich as a businessman. When he got so rich, so wealthy, he got distracted, and he forgot God in his life. He was very rich, he had a lot of responsibilities, a lot of activities when he was rich, and he forgot about God. At the peak of his success, something happened in the economy of the country. Then he remembered God because he always attributed his success to God. He remembered God and he started praying again. I forgot about you, it's really my fault. Now I want you to be the center of my life again. After how many months, he went back. Then little by little, his business grew again. He became very wealthy again, much more than the first time. He became very wealthy again. So he was there at the pinnacle of his success. Then again, that's what happened. He forgot about God, he forgot about worship, he forgot about our responsibilities to God. And after a while, his business fell again. Amen? He was deceived by his partner. He had a business partner. He lost all of his wealth. And he had no fight. Back to zero again. When he went back to zero again, again he cried out to God. He cried out to the Lord again. And the Lord came to his aid again. And the Lord came to his aid again. And he was helped again. In a few years time, his business grew again. And he became much more wealthier. Because experience can teach you. Because if you go back, you will know better. So he became very wealthy again. Then the same story. It's still the same story. He forgot about God again. Amen? Amen.

The Lord forgot again.
He was very wealthy.
He forgot about God.
And he fell down again.
This time, even his family was together.
His wife left him.
His children left him.
He was totally devastated.
He was so heartbroken.
Because his own family left him.
His own friends left him.
He was alone.
And he got sick.
He got sick.
And when he was about to die,
he asked God's forgiveness again.
He said,
Lord, if this is all I can do,
please forgive me.
It was my fault.
I forgot about you.
And the Lord knows
the desires of his heart.
He started to help him again.
And he became very wealthy again.
When he became very wealthy,
he became very rich.
Again,
when he reached the pinnacle
and the height of success
and prosperity and power
and prestige and honor,
when he reached the top,
this is what he said,
I will not
commit the same mistake again.
Because I am
already coming
to the end of my life.
You know?
What did he do?
He got all his wealth together
and he started to share it.
Started to share it.
You know?
He said, when he was rich,
he was giving.
Because when you are giving,
you are sharing.
When you have bread,
if you have a loaf of bread
and you gave
a little to each other,
that is not sharing.
Why? Because you still have more.
That is just
almsgiving.
But if you have this loaf of bread
and you split it in half
and you gave the other
to your partner,
that is sharing because it was given
halves.
That is already what we call sharing.

You are already sharing.
Now the goal,
the goal is,
there will be no bread left if you can
give it all.
Okay?

That is now investing
in the kingdom of God.
So that is what he did.
He said, I don't want to repeat it.
And he started sharing
his wealth.

Looking at his employees,
he added their salary.
And he started to
build foundations that would help
single mothers.
He started to build foundation
that will help the poor.
Those who cannot
provide for themselves, he started
to put up his money
on shelter.

He built houses.
The land that he acquired
through the years,
he made a housing project
for the poor
until the day he died.
He never lost
a single centavo anymore.
Hindi na talaga siya bumagsak.
Amen?

Now why am I sharing you
with this? Because the gospel today
speaks about
wealth and riches.

Okay?

And eto palagi sinasabi ni
Bishop Ricardo noon.
God is never

angry at us
when we acquire
and have possessions.
Hindi talaga galit ang Diyos.

This gospel is
misinterpreted palagi na.
Pinapakita dito sa gospel daw
sinasabi ng marami na yung
gospel na to, it's about the rich young man
who came to Jesus
and asking
for eternal life.

Sabi na,
yung gospel na to, galit daw ang Diyos
sa mga mayayaman. Hindi po totoo yan.
No.

God is never
against us when we have
possessions and we build our
lives and acquire more
and more possessions. God is never angry.
God is
only angry.

Not really angry.
God intervenes
once
your possessions begins
to possess you.
Sinasabi ni Bishop.
When your possessions
begins to possess you, now hindi na ikaw
may hawak ng pera mo,
yung pera mo may hawak na sayo.
Kagaya
ng isang tao na marami siyang gold
na nakuha. Nung pumunta siya sa
Saudi Arabia,
nag-ipon siya ng gold.
Sa sobran niyang takot,
baka nakawin yung gold sa kanya,
ginawa niyang sinturon yung gold.
Pininturahan
niya at pinasok niya sa belt
niya, kaya ang bigat ng sinturon niya.
Ginawa niyang sinturon
yung gold.
So while boarding a ship,
nung sumakay siya ng barko, pa-uwi dun sa bayan nila,
nalunod yung barko.
Nung nalunod yung barko,
di lahat
naglangoy. Siya hindi makalangoy
sa sobrang bigat ng ginto.
The weight
of that gold is pulling him down.
So inisip
niya, tanggalin ko kaya
if I remove this belt, mabubuhay ako.
Pero sabi niya,
pag natanggal naman tung belt na to,
at nabuhay ako,
walan la rin yung gold ko.
So namili siya,
gold o buhay?
Kuwarta o kahon?
You know?
And
finally, he cannot decide
because not to
make a decision is already a decision.
He cannot decide.
Hindi niya talaga mapitawan yung gold niya.
Kaya talagang nalunod na lang siya.
He died. Kasama yung gold niya.
Kaya ang question ngayon,
sino bang may hawak
ng gold? Siya
o yung gold ang may hawak
sa kanya?
Okay? Amen?
When you
don't have wealth,
when you don't have money,
it seems like
your life is not complete.
Amen?
Wala kang pera, it seems like

life is not complete.
Pero pag wala kang buhay,
ay talaga
ang pera
walang kabuluhan.
Amen?

Buhay o pera?
Pag wala kang pera, it seems like
life is not complete.
But if you do not have life,
pera lang yung nasa iyo,
wala kang namang buhay,
wala talagang kabuluhan
ang pera na yan. Amen?
So before we go to the gospel,
let me just look at and read to you
yung first reading
natin at Amos.

What is in our
first reading?
In our first reading,
sinasabi dito, seek the Lord
that you may live. Yan ang sabi
ni Amos. Seek
and put the Lord first
in your life.

That you may live as God
has
purposed you to live.
You want to be able to live
out the plans and purposes
of God in your life,
put God first.

If you put anything
else above God,
mabubuhay ka pero hindi na dun
sa plano ng Diyos.

Yan ang sinasabi ni Amos.
If you want to live
according to God's
purpose and plan for your life,
my plans are plans to
prosper you,
not to harm you, to give you
hope.

My plans
for you are to make you
joyful and happy in your life.

Yan ang plano ng Diyos.
But you have to put God
first. You have
to put God at the center
and core of your life.

Then
everything that God purposed
and planned for your life,
yan ang magiging buhay mo.

Amen? Yan ang
first reading natin.
The second reading,
it says here that
we have to hold fast to our
confession. We have to hold
fast to Jesus as Lord

and center of your life.
Pangahawakan mo yan.
Because there are so many things in this
world that will try to
remove Christ away from
the center of your life.

Amen?

That is why sinasabi dito,
remember that everything we have
is by grace.

Everything
we have is by the grace
of God.

Tell the person beside you, everything
is by the grace of God.

Minsan kasi pag nagtatrabaho
tayo, sumasahod
tayo, akala
natin talaga yung pera na yan, yung
sinahod natin, gawa talaga
ng lakas mo yan.

You know? Sometimes

iniisip natin
na ako tama na ra.

Ako tama na nagpangabudlay ka ra.

I'm the one who worked hard
for this, so this is mine.

It came by my own work
and hard labor. No.

So,
marami rin nagha-hard labor,
pero wala namang nakukuhang pera.

Hard labor,
kasi paggan, all
these things that comes from us
can never supply us with wealth
unless the Lord
allows it.

So everything we have in life,
the things that you're enjoying
now in your life, is by
the grace of God.

Okay?

If we don't realize,
if we don't realize this,
we will find it hard
to share what we have.

Amen?

Pag ang tingin mo sa pera mo
talagang sayo at pinaghirapan mo,
mahihirapan ka
makipag-share.

But once you realize
that whatever wealth
you have is by the grace of
God, binigay lang talaga ng
Diyos sayo dahil mahal ka
ng Diyos, then it's not
difficult to share
that with others.

Amen?

And we go back to the Gospel today.

This is the Gospel. The Gospel
today is all about

true prosperity
which God
bestows upon us
when Christ is at
the very center
of our life.
The story begins in our
Gospel with a rich man.
Sa Matthew
ang tawag sa kanya,
rich young man.
Tingnan nyo han yung tao na to.
He was a rich young man.
Meron kasing mayayaman
pero matanda na.
Okay?
No offense. Bukay magalit.
Talagang totoo yan.
Meron mayaman na mayaman
pero matanda na.
Okay?
Meron namang batang-bata,
guwapo, malakas, talented,
wala namang pera.
Okay? Pero itong tao
na to na lumapit kay Jesus,
he had everything.
He was young.
He was full of life.
He was in good health.
There is nothing that
he needs.
Maliban pa don,
mayaman na mayaman siya.
But one day he approached Christ.
He even knelt down. He was
desperate. Ayawan ko
ano nangyari sa kanya.
Nandyan ang lahat sa kanya. Bakit
nag-isip siya
tungkol sa eternal life?
May nangyari sa buhay niya siguro.
That's why our psalm
reading today teaches us,
teaches us
to number your
days.
To regain a heart of wisdom.
Ano ibig sabihin yan?
Hoy, wag mo kalimutan.
Lahat ng bagay,
kahit yaman,
may hangganan yan.
Amen?
Kaya
pang hindi natin maalala yan,
we don't number our
days. We don't
realize that we will
come to an end.
Nabubuhay tayo
dito parang lasing.
Akala mo, yung yaman mo,
dadalhin mo hanggang dun sa

langit. At akala mo,
yung yaman mo, hindi mauubos.
May katapusan yan.
That's why you have to
number your days. Teach us, O
Lord, to number our days
that we may gain a heart of
wisdom. There are
two things, two ways you can have wisdom.
The fear of the Lord. Matakot ka
sa Diyos. Hindi yung takot na papatayin
ka ng Diyos. Kundi you'll have
a reverence for God, a very
deep respect for God. If you
develop that, you will gain wisdom.
And the second thing,
how to have the wisdom of God.
Learn to number
your days.
Amen?
Learn to number
your days.
I was,
I am now
older than I was yesterday.
But tomorrow,
I will be older than
today.
Pumapatak ang oras.
Tumatanda tayong lahat.
At lumalapit, lumalapit,
lumalapit tayo
hanggang dun sa
katapusan ng buhay.
So be conscious of that.
This rich young
man
was so full of life.
He was healthy. He had everything.
He has wealth. He has
influence. He lives
in good health.
Kaya maraming tao na mayaman sinasabit nila,
anin mo ang yaman
kung ikaw may sakit
naman. Diba?
Aanin mo
yung puno yung refrigerator mo
kung yung pwede mong kainin
ay saging lang.
Diba?
Sayaw.
Walang kabuluhan yung yaman
kung meron ka ng sakit.
Maraming problema
kung inaharap, Father.
Ang dami kong problema, sabi ko sa tao na yan,
pag nagkasakit ka, isa na lang
ang problema mo.
Mawawala na yang lahat na problema.
Okay?
Ang dami mong iniisip na problema.
Wala akong pangbili
ng sapatos. Wala akong pangbili

ng ganito. Wala akong
oras punta dun. Ang dami mong problema.
Pag nagkasakit ka,
wala ka ng problema iba.
Yun na lang.
Amen?
That's why some people call health is
wealth.
Health is wealth.
Katumbas yan.
Those things
are very important. Your health
and your wealth. Now take note.
Sometimes
we can acquire wealth
but good health
can only come
from God. Hindi nabibili
yung good health.
So this young man had everything.
He had good health.
He had wealth. But
why did he come to Jesus at lumuhod
siya? Sabi niya, good teacher!
Nako, talagang
you read the Bible, hindi siya lumapit
na. Lumuhod siya, tumiyak.
Good teacher,
what must I do to have eternal life? Siguro
nagising siya and he realized
na lahat
ng bagays sa mundo ay may hangganan.
Siguro nagising siya, naisip niya yan.
Napakalusog ko,
napakayaman ko,
but one day he wakes up, he must
have realized
these things will come to an end.
Where will I go
pag naubos na lahat ko? Saan ako pupunta?
Anong mangyayari sa buhay ko?
Pag wala na akong lakas, wala na akong health,
wala na yung pera ko,
where will I go? Suddenly he must have thought
of that because
you number your days, you gain the heart of wisdom,
you become wise.
When you become wise, you start
asking the right
questions.
Amen? Once you
gain the wisdom of God,
marunong ka na magtanong yung tamang tanong.
Kaya sabi niya
kay Jesus,
good teacher,
what must I do
to inherit eternal life? Wow!
Yaman-yaman nito,
eternal life ang pinag-uusapan.
And sabi ni Jesus kagad sa kanya,
why do you call me good?
There's only one who is
good and that is God.

You know that person?
That person
did not realize it, but
he was kneeling before God
and he was acknowledging
Jesus as God.
Nandun siya sa harap
ng Diyos.
Then Jesus said to him,
you have the commandments.
Honor your father.
Do not commit adultery.
Do not steal.
Sinasabi ng Diyos sa kanya, you have the commandments.
Ano sabi ng tao na to?
Teacher, I have done this.
All my life
ginawa ko na to.
Now take note.
When you obey
God's commandments,
when you do
what God commands you,
it will always point
you to Jesus.
Amen?
Pag sinusunod mo
yung utos ng Diyos,
you try to live it out.
It will
point you to Christ. That's why this man
was able to find Christ
and acknowledge him as
God. Why? Because he was
obeying the commandments
from my youth.
Nung maliit pa ako,
yan ang turo ng nanay ko, yan ang
ginagawa ko, Lord.
And the scripture says,
and Jesus loved him.
Napamahal siya sa Diyos dahil diyan.
Because the law,
the commandment was able to
point him to Jesus, who can
save him, who can give him eternal life.
Hindi siya pumunta sa ibang
religion. Pinuntahan niya si
Christo mismo. Bakit?
Dahil siya'y sumusunod sa
utos ng Diyos.
And Jesus loved him because now he's here.
At itong sabi ni Jesus sa kanya,
one thing,
one thing, isa na lang
ang kulang sayo.
Pasago ka na.
And you will have eternal life. One thing
you lack.
And this is what Jesus said,
go,
sell your possessions
and give to the poor.
Then, you follow me.

Isa na lang ang
kulang niya.
Nagawa niya ng lahat
ng requirement, isa na lang ang kulang.
Now, for me,
I would be excited.
You know, kung nag-a-apply ka,
nag-a-apply ka mag-abroad,
ang daming requirements, diba? Pabalik-balik ka,
pabalik-balik. Pagbalik mo dun
sabi sayo, ay, kulang ka pa ng ganito.
Kulang ka ng NBI.
Kulang ka ng terma ng mayor. Kulang ka ng
ito. Diba? Pabalik-balik ka.
After one month,
pagod ka na pagdating mo dun sabi,
isa na lang kulang.
Oh, yun. Grabe. Ay,
nako. Excited ka na. Isa na lang
ang kulang sa papeles mo.
Would you be excited kung isa na lang yung kulang mo?
But not this man.
Nung sinabi
ng Diyos sa kanya, isa na lang yung kulang mo,
eto,
go sell your
possessions and you give
to the poor, then you come and follow
me. Yun lang ang
kulang niya.
But the scripture said, instead
of becoming excited and happy,
he turned away
from the Lord very
sad. Tinalikuran
niyang Diyos.
Why?
What's wrong?
What was wrong?
Because
number one,
he
did not want to
share his
wealth. Yeah, number one.
And
secondly,
he did not want
to follow Jesus.
Ayaw niyang
sumunod kay Jesus.
Yun ang failure niya.
Kaya nung lumapit siya sa Diyos,
at sinabi niya, Lord, ginawa ko na to
lahat, alam kagad ni Lord
yung weakness niya.
And Jesus gave him the word,
ang pulong sa Diyos is a
sword, and where
you are weak, it would cut your heart.
Kaya niya sinabi niya, Lord,
nagawa ko na to. Lord, I've done this already.
I have been good.
You better watch out. You better not

cry.
I'm telling you why. Jesus is
coming tonight. Diba?
He has
done everything good.
But Jesus
can already see the weakness
of his life.
Jesus can already see and
perceive that he is weak in the
area of wealth
because he has so
much possession
he didn't want to share.
Kita ni Lord.
Kaya dahil mahal
ka ng Diyos, dahil
mahal ka ng Diyos, ang Diyos hindi nagsisinungaling
sa'yo.
Kung may difference ang buhay mo, sasabihin ang Diyos
yan. Huwag ka magalit.
Kasi minsan tayo, pag
mahal natin yung tao, binibilog lang natin
yung ulo eh. Maganda ba ako?
Ay, oo, ubog talaga.
Diba?
Mukhang bata pa ba ako? Ay, oo,
parang 16 years old ka na.
Binibilog natin.
But Jesus,
because he loves us, he will tell you
the truth.
I have done everything.
Yun ang kaakalan niya. Nagawa niya na
lahat. And Jesus saw the weakness
of his heart and so Jesus said, isa na lang.
And he sent
the word and cut his heart there.
Chak! Go.
Sell your possessions
and give to the poor.
Then you come and follow me.
Yan ang weakness niya. Ayaw
niya. Masyadong
nakakapit siya sa yaman
niya.
And dahil sa sobrang
kapit niya sa yaman niya,
mabigat ang
buhay niya. Ayaw niyang
sumunod sa iba.
Dapat siya ang sundan ng lahat.
And he
went away sad. Lost the
opportunity to
have peace in his life. That's why
sabi ni Lord, it's hard for a
rich man. Not impossible
but difficult.
For a rich man to
enter the kingdom of God.
It's so hard for a man who has
many possessions to enter the kingdom of God.
Tapos inulit ni Lord, it's so

hard for a man who trusts in
his riches to enter
the kingdom of God. It's not just the riches
but your attitude towards
your wealth that hinders
you. What is the
problem with that? Because to
eternal life,
eternal life means
that you know Jesus.
Sabi nga ni St. John, and this is eternal
life that you know Jesus.
Eternal life
means that Jesus
is at the center of your life.
Yun ang eternal life.

Amen?

Eternal life is not
something na si Jesus
nasa tabi lang ng buhay ko. That is
not eternal life.

Kahit

sabi mong Christiano ka, tapos
si Jesus, nandun lang nilalagay mo
sa isang box.

Lahat ng bagay sa buhay ko
akong masusunod. Jesus, sa Sunday
ka lang. That is not
eternal life.

To know Jesus
means that you put
him in the very core of your life.
That is why

pag si Jesus
ang nasa center ng buhay mo,
ingatan mo yung puso mo na walang
bagay at anuman
that will push
Jesus away from that center
of your life. Yan ang sakit
ng tao na yan.

Remember

many Sundays ago,
I shared with you, Thomas Aquinas
said, there are four things
four things that will
put Christ
away from your life.
Four things that will
crowd out and move
Jesus away from the center of your life.

What is that?

Number one.

Okay, tingnan ko,
baka magkabali ako.

Remember?

Remember?

Number one

is wealth. Nyaman.

Now, is wealth wrong?

Wealth by itself is not wrong.

Deuteronomy 8, 17 to 18

it says that it is God who gives you
the ability to find wealth.

God wants you to have wealth.
Amen?
Amen?
God wants you to have money.
Ayon yung
ayon yung tanggapin yan?
Ayon yung tanggapin yan?
Gusto ng
just kay tera kayo.
Right?
If other money is the root of all evil,
no, it's not money.
It's not the root of all evil.
It's the love of money.
God wants you to
prosper. God wants you
to have prosperity in your life.
Economic prosperity.
But you've got to guard
your heart that your wealth
will not push Jesus away
from the center of your heart.
Amen? Kaya anong gagawin natin?
Pag sobrang dami na,
i-share mo yung iba
so that Christ still is
the center of your life. Share it.
Amen?
Give others.
Another thing that will remove Christ
from the center of your life is power.
Your hunger for power.
In Luke 10, 19,
God is the one who gives
us power.
God wants us to have
authority and power.
But do not get drunk
with power. Maraming tao talaga
that they are so obsessed
and preoccupied with power.
That is wrong.
Another thing that will
remove
Jesus from the center of your life
is your love for pleasure.
Your love for pleasure.
Galit ba si Lord pag may pleasure tayo?
Well, in
Psalm 16, verse 11, in the
presence of the Lord,
there's fullness of joy.
And He gives us
and there is pleasure at His
right hand. He provides pleasure
for us. But
do not allow pleasure
to dominate
your life.
Amen?
Don't allow your love for pleasure
to take center stage
in your life. It's always
Christ. And when you are

with Christ, you will love
the cross more than
you love pleasure.

Amen?

Finally, another thing that will
remove us, remove Christ from the center
of your life, is your desire
to be honored.

Amen?

Don't be so preoccupied with your
honor. Don't so be obsessed
with your honor.

In 1 Chronicles 29,
it is God who honors us.

So, God also gives honor to us,
but don't
pursue it.

That is more important than God.

Keep Christ
in the center of your life.

And that is
where true prosperity comes.

Out of that life
where Christ is number one.

Out of that life where
Christ is first. Out of
that life where Christ is at the center
will flow the joy,
the peace, and love,
and prosperity, and
healing in your life.

That is what the kingdom of
God is.

Jesus wants us
to be truly prosperous.

That's why
remove
the things
that pushes Jesus away
from the center.