

What Do You Seek?

Take-Home: The Door That Stayed Shut

A standalone deep-dive session

What We Found

A morally serious man ran to Jesus, knelt, and asked the right question, with what he said was a clean record behind it: all these, he told Jesus, he had observed from his youth. Jesus audited his casual use of “good,” and when He listed the commandments, one was missing: the commandment against coveting. Many readers have heard in that omission a quiet diagnosis, the commandment this man could least confidently claim; if so, “you lack one thing” landed exactly on the gap. Before the hard call came a sentence Mark writes about no other individual: Jesus, looking upon him, loved him. Then: sell, give, come, follow. And the man went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions, and Jesus let him go: no chase, no better offer, no condemnation, no withdrawal of the love. The disciples were astonished, and the resolution was not a loophole but a miracle: with men it is impossible, but not with God. The text never tells us his ending, and the Church has never presumed to. The door stayed shut that afternoon; nothing in the story says it stayed shut forever.

Voices Worth Keeping

St. Athanasius, Life of Antony 2 (summary)

Around AD 270 a wealthy young Egyptian named Anthony heard this Gospel read, took “go, sell what you have” as addressed to himself, and did it. Monasticism traces to his yes.

St. Francis of Assisi Legend of the Three Companions (summary)

A millennium later the same words were drawn again. In the church of St. Nicholas in Assisi, Francis and his first companion, Bernard of Quintavalle, opened the Gospel book to learn God’s will, and the first passage they found was: if you would be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor. They took it literally and did it. The refused passage has been accepted, and the results are on the record.

Pope St. John Paul II *Veritatis Splendor* (summary)

His encyclical on the moral life opens its first chapter with this encounter: the young man’s question is every person’s question, and the call to follow is addressed to freedom, which grace assists but never replaces.

Live It This Week

1. Name your one thing to yourself, privately. Diagnosis is not surrender; it is honesty.
2. Do one small act that loosens its grip.
3. Read Mark 10:17-31 once more, and let verse 21 be about you.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

“With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.” Mark 10:27

If You Want More

This session stands alone. Before the Zacchaeus deep-dive, read Luke 19:1-10. **Catechism references:** CCC 2052-2053, 1723, 2002.