

# PARABLES OF MERCY

## The Rich Young Man

*Luke 18:18-30*

*What must I do to inherit  
eternal life?*



# Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has initiated this Year of Mercy as an opportunity for pilgrimage, reflection and commitment to action that will enable Mercy to be made concrete and practical in our own local communities.

Thank you for your willingness to enter into this time of prayer and reflection. May it be an experience of Mercy which will enable you to further respond with Mercy and compassion in your local community.

## Lectio / Visio Divina

**Lectio Divina** is a Latin term meaning “Reading with God”.

**Visio Davina** is a Latin term meaning “seeing or looking with God”.

We hope that the parable windows will be a Lectio / Visio Divina for the community of pilgrims in the Year of Mercy so that we may also “See with God”.

The practice of sacred reading has been practiced in the church for centuries, and has its origin in the monastic life as a pathway for prayer with scripture. It leads us gently into a deeper relationship with Christ as we open ourselves to him. It is the ultimate DIY spiritual project.

There are four steps in the traditional practice of Lectio Divina.  
But they do not need to be followed in this particular sequence.

**1. Lectio Visio (reading-looking)**

Look at the window slowly,  
read the scripture ...become aware of a particular  
word - phrase - colour - object or character.  
*(There is a page for your jottings inside the back cover.)*

**2. Meditatio (reflection)**

Let the significant word / object / colour / character fill your  
mind without straining to analyse them.  
You are in God's presence,  
let the Holy Spirit lead your understanding.

**3. Oratio (prayer)**

Allow your heart to speak to God,  
in words or emotions inspired by the parable  
or the thoughts that have come to you while reflecting.

**4. Contemplatio (rest)**

Let go of ideas and words and allow yourself to rest in the  
presence of God in simple wordless contemplation.

Adapted from the  
Lectio Divina pamphlet - NZ Catholic Bishops Conference 2011)



What must I do?

There is one thing you lack.

Then come, and follow me!

1. Look and be open to the parable window  
Look for a particular colour, character, object,  
concept or word that may seem significant.
  
2. Let that which is significant  
fill your mind without analysing;  
you are in God's presence,  
let the Holy Spirit lead your understanding.
  
3. Allow your heart to speak to God  
as you are inspired by the parable.
  
4. How am I called to respond?  
Allow yourself to rest  
in the presence of God.

At each of the parable windows, there are three basic questions ...

- As I look and ponder the parable window what do I notice? Why?
- Where do I see love, or mercy or faithfulness, compassion or forgiveness in this parable?
- How am I called to respond?

# A space for journaling:

*(Please jot down your thoughts and insights for further reflection)*

You may like to enter the parable window through your imagination, as a character or an object ... actually allowing yourself to experience the Mercy and Love of God.

# The Rich Young Man

Luke 18:18-30

A certain ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honour your father and mother.’ He replied, “I have kept all these since my youth.”



When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich. Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” He replied, “What is impossible for mortals is possible for God.”

Then Peter said, “Look, we have left our homes and followed you.” And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not get back very much more in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.”