

In today's Gospel a rich young man approaches Jesus and asks: What must I do to inherit eternal life? I was struck by the word inherit. I like to think of an inheritance as a gift freely given – out of love.

So what *do we need to do* to inherit eternal life, to be united with God forever?

We have to want it. Really want it. Want it so much that it changes our lives.

Eternal life, being united with God forever, is a gift freely given and it is already ours. How much do we want it?

In the Gospel, the rich young man went away sad because his stuff, the stuff of his life, got in the way. Jesus loved him, Mark tells us. That love never stops – such is the mystery of God's love for us.

I wonder if the rich young man grew and matured and discovered the joy of sharing his stuff?

Isn't that life's purpose – with its challenges and its joys – that we come to realize what it is we really want and Who it is that really matters.

May that be our prayer this day: to realize what it is we really want and Who it is that really matters.