



Breaking our Bonds by Giving to the Poor

Isn't this the fast that I have chosen: to release the bonds of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, to...break every yoke...to distribute your bread to the hungry, and that you bring the poor who are cast out to your house? – Isaiah 58:6-7

[Matthew 19:16-22, Perea] Behold, As he was going out into the way, one certain ruler came to him, ran, knelt before him, and said, "Good teacher, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?"

He said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but one, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

He said to him, "Which ones?"

Jesus said, "'You shall not murder.' 'You shall not commit adultery.' 'You shall not steal.' 'You shall not offer false testimony.' 'Honor your

If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have, and give to the poor

father and mother.' [Exodus 20:12-16] And, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" [Leviticus 19:18]

The young man said to him, "All these things I have observed from my youth up. What do I still lack?"

Jesus looking at him loved him and said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when the young man heard the saying, his face fell and he went away sad, for he was one who had great possessions. [Mark 10:17-22, Luke 18:18-23]

1. Does money bind you? What else does? How can you break free? Who can you bless?

2. How does yesterday's reading compare to today's? Are you self-righteous? How so?

3. Jesus, you convict me until I walk away, but I need to turn back and admit, "I CAN'T..."