

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John  
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,  
October 10, 2021**

**SETTING LIMITS**

In this Sunday's Gospel, we learn of a man who put limits on his relationship with God. To do what Jesus asked was beyond what he was willing to do in his spiritual life. He would obey the commandments, but he would not let go of his wealth and possessions. That was beyond his limits.

We can be like that man. We can limit our response to what God asks of us. We can decide to only go so far in responding to the demands of the Gospel and in following the example of Jesus.

Jesus tells us to forgive our enemies, to do good to those who hurt us. But instead of doing so, we can place certain people beyond the limits of our mercy.

Jesus calls us to give praise to our Father in heaven, to spend time in prayer. But instead of doing so, we can limit our conversation with God to a quick Our Father or to Mass on Sunday, and sometimes not even that.

Jesus sends us forth to brighten the world with the light of our faith. But instead of doing so, we can limit

those places where we are willing to let our faith in Christ shine forth.

Jesus teaches us to care for those in need. But instead of doing so, we can freely spend on ourselves, and then place limits on our generosity.

Jesus proclaims that we are to love God with all our heart, soul, and strength. But instead of letting our love for God impact every part of our lives, we can limit where we allow God to guide our decisions and behavior.

This Sunday we are challenged to ask ourselves if, like the rich man of the Gospel, we have put limits on how far we are willing to go in our relationship with God.

In your service, prayerfully.

Father John Carlos