

August 19, 2008
Tuesday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Ezekiel 28:1-10

Deuteronomy 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab

Matthew 19:23-30

And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters—or father or mother or children or lands—for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

I believe that we learn self-protection at a very early stage in life. We acquire possessions, relationships, status, and position, all in an effort to make ourselves feel valued, worthy, happy, or useful. We do what we do because we think it serves us well. And then we read this gospel. Jesus challenges us to let go of everything we think we need and everything we know we want. If I find letting go of things difficult, how am I ever going to let go of relationships with those I love. "Where does this stripping end," I want to yell as I read this scripture passage. "The only thing you need is me," answers Jesus.

We need in love to practice only this: letting each other go. For holding on comes easily--we do not need to learn it.

Rainer Maria Rilke

Where am I cultivating and hanging onto relationships in order to feed my ego?