

# Grandad's Treasure

October 2018

Most Sundays, Alex and his family went to his Grandad's house for lunch. Alex loved playing with Grandad's train set when he went over. However, one Sunday, after lunch, Grandad said to Alex, "Come and sit with me, Alex. I've been wanting to tell you about something."

So Alex sat next to Grandad and listened to him.

"Do you enjoy playing with my train set?" asked Grandad.

"I love it!" said Alex.

"Well, when I was your age, that train set used to be very precious to me. So precious in fact, that I didn't want to play with anything else. *Or anyone else.*"

Alex was confused by this. "What do you mean, Grandad?" he said,

"Well, I played with it more than my friends. Whenever my friends asked me out to play, I said no because I wanted to play with my train set. If they came around to my house, I wouldn't let them play with my train set because it was so precious to me. So, eventually, they fell out with me.

"One weekend, my friends went camping and they didn't even ask if I wanted to come because they knew I would say no." Grandad sighed deeply as he recalled the memory.

"You must have felt really left out, Grandad," said Alex.

"Well, I had my train set. But then... it broke. So I was left all weekend without my favourite toy and without my friends. I realised that I had been very silly for turning my back on them.

"Did you fix the broken train set, Grandad?" asked Alex.

"I did," sighed Grandad.

"And what about your broken friendships?"

"Well, a broken train set is much easier to fix than a broken friendship. But I was extra nice to my friends after that. I realised that I didn't want to lose the things that were really

important...my friends and family. Because, as I've found out, people are more precious than anything. Like you."

Alex gave his Grandad a big hug and then they played on the train set together. After this, Alex decided that he was going to value his friends and family more than any possessions.

# The Rich Young Man

***"Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"***

***"Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven."***

***(Mark 10:17-30)***

In the Gospel story of the rich young man (Sunday 14 October), Jesus tells us how difficult it is to enter the Kingdom of Heaven when we have many possessions. Possessions can sometimes get in the way of loving others. This is the lesson that Grandad shared with his Grandson in the story of "Grandad's Treasure".

However, no matter our age – whether we are a young child with toys, an older child with gadgets or an adult with responsibilities – letting go of the security that can be found in material goods can be difficult. Indeed, it was difficult for the disciples in this Gospel passage too. Jesus knows this. He appreciates the internal struggle that we all face at times with the quest for happiness and security. That is why this same Gospel passage concludes with his reassuring message:

***'For men' he said 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'***

# Prayer

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.