

**TWENTY-EIGHTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

YEAR B

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

We want nothing
but you, God;
you are the greatest treasure.
Do not allow us
to be greedy and selfish,
thinking we are important
because of the things we own.
Instead, let us rely
completely on you
and on the teaching
of your son, Jesus,
who lives with you
and the Holy Spirit,
forever and ever.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Both of our readings focus on the choice to be made between God and riches. In the first reading, wisdom is desired more than “all the riches I could have.” Wisdom here is not knowledge, but a personification of God, an image of God. It is, therefore, God who is preferred more than riches. In our Gospel passage, Jesus challenges a man to “sell everything you have—then come follow me.” When the man rejects this challenge, Jesus tells his disciples that it is harder for a rich person to enter heaven than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle. Biblically, riches seem to be an obstacle to a deep relationship with God. But the meaning of the Gospel goes beyond material wealth. It is a call to put aside anything and everything that keeps us from wholeheartedly following Jesus.

FIRST READING: *Wisdom 7:7-11*

This is a reading from the book of Wisdom.

I prayed for the spirit of wisdom,
and she came to me
and helped me to understand all things.
Wisdom is more important to me
than all the riches I could have.
She is more wonderful
than the most expensive jewels.
She is more important to me
than power or even health.
And when I have true wisdom,
I have everything else that is good.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: *Psalm 90*

RESPONSE:

Fill us with your gift of love. Help us find our joy in you. joy in you.

VERSES:

1. God, our God, ev-er-last - ing. May our hearts al-ways turn to you.
2. God, our God, ev-er-last - ing. Bless the work that we do to - day.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
“Noth - ing is im - pos - si - ble, God can do all things.”

GOSPEL: *Mark 10:17-27*

This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark.

One day a man ran up to Jesus and knelt down in front of him, and asked,

“Good teacher, what do I have to do so that I will live with God forever?”

Jesus said,

“You know the commandments:
You must not steal. You must not kill.
You must not sin
against your husband or wife.
You must not cheat. You must not lie.
Honor your mother and father.”

The man said,

“Teacher,
I have always kept these commandments,
ever since I was a little child.”

Jesus looked at the young man with love and said,

“There is still one more thing you must do.
Go and sell everything you have
and give the money to the poor.
God will reward you for doing this.
Then come and follow me.”

When Jesus said this,
the young man went away very sad,
because he owned many things.
Then Jesus said to his disciples,

“It is very hard for a rich person
to enter the kingdom of God.
It is easier for a camel
to get through the eye of a needle
than for a rich person
to enter the kingdom of God.”

The disciples were shocked at this and asked,

“Then how is it possible
for anyone to be saved and go to heaven?”

Jesus said,

“You cannot save yourselves. God saves you.
God can do all things,
for nothing is impossible for God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Oct 15, 2000

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS
WITH CHILDREN:

After the Gospel, ask the children to recall the story. If they have difficulty recalling, you might ask questions such as these:

- What did the man ask Jesus?
- Why did Jesus answer with the 10 commandments?
- Can you remember what those commandments are?

But the man wanted to know what more he could do for God.

- What did Jesus answer?
- How did the man respond to what Jesus said?
- Why did Jesus say,

“It is easier for a camel to get through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of heaven”?

Help the children understand that Jesus did *not* say that rich people are not going to heaven. It is not money itself that Jesus asks us to give up. It is holding onto things—letting possessions come between God and us. This man’s possessions meant more to him than being a disciple of Jesus. Perhaps for another person it would not be money or things but holding onto a certain idea about something or someone. Jesus may be asking some to give up some of their time to help others.

You may need to develop this point rather than eliciting it from the children. After you have developed it, they may be able to offer some ideas on it.

The children should leave understanding that the point of the two readings is that our love for God, and following Jesus, is more precious than anything we could have or own.

Twenty-eighth Sunday of the Year

Focus

A Bible open at today's Gospel, together with a selection of money.

Introduction

Money and possessions do not make us rich in the sight of God. Often they distract and lead us away from what is truly important – God's love. By living as Jesus taught us and sharing in God's kingdom now, we can store up precious treasure for ourselves in heaven.

Gloria

Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing Acclamation 9.

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St Mark (10:17-30)
(See page 386.)

Reflection

What did the man want Jesus to tell him?

He wanted to know what he needed to do to share eternal life with God in heaven.

What did Jesus remind him to do?

First Jesus reminded the man of the importance of obeying God's commandments, and mentioned several of these.

When Jesus recognised the man's goodness and sincerity, what did he tell him to do next?

Jesus invited the man to become his disciple and follow him. In order to do this, he needed to give away his riches to the poor, because Jesus knew that sometimes wealth can separate a person from God. If a person becomes obsessed with riches, then God is often pushed aside in their life as money becomes more important than anything else. He wanted the man to understand that treasure in heaven is more valuable than any worldly wealth can ever be.

What did the man do?

Giving up his wealth was a demand that the man could not accept, and he went away sad because he could not bring himself to give up all that he had. This does not mean that to follow Jesus we must give up all our possessions! Jesus wanted people to understand that to become a disciple requires total commitment and can make heavy demands on us. Some people are called to give up more than others.

What had disciples such as Peter given up to become followers of Christ?

Peter and the other disciples had given up their livelihoods, families, homes and friends. They had left behind comfort and security and sacrificed everything to accept Christ's invitation to follow him.

What did Jesus promise in return for such commitment?

Those who give up everything for the sake of Christ and become faithful disciples are promised the gifts and riches that come from God's love and life in this world and the next, where they will share his eternal life and glory.

Activity

Cut 'coins' from silver or gold metallic card. On the back of each coin help the children to write or draw things that are valuable to God and represent lasting riches that we can store in heaven. These riches can be placed in one large 'money box' (made from a cereal box), or in smaller individual money boxes made from yoghurt pots (there are several kinds readily available in supermarkets, made from clear plastic with lids). After carefully cutting a slit large enough to accept the children's riches (an adult should do this!), label the money box 'Heaven' and decorate.

Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

We pray for the poor and the homeless;
may our loving care and concern enrich their lives.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for people who feel rejected or alone;
may a warm smile and friendly word
enrich their lonely lives.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for people who believe
that money alone can bring happiness;
may their lives be enriched
by discovering the joy of sharing.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for love, generosity and understanding in our world;
may all nations and peoples remember what is important to God.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening,
in the silence of our hearts
let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

Silence

Loving Father,
in your loving kindness hear our prayers,
and help us to live as children of God
storing up treasure in heaven,
as we build your precious kingdom of love.
We make these prayers through Christ your Son.
Amen.



Twenty-Eighth Sunday of the Year

The camel and the needle

INTRODUCTION

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells a young man what he must do if he wants to share everlasting life in the kingdom of God.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say Candle Prayer 2.

SORRY

God is always ready to forgive us, even when we turn away. Listen to this story:

Zacchaeus was a tax collector who cheated people out of their money. No one liked him and he had no friends, but Jesus was ready to forgive Zacchaeus and to offer him his friendship. Zacchaeus had a change of heart and was sorry for his dishonesty and selfishness. He promised Jesus he would change his ways and try hard to be kind and loving to everyone. (Luke 19:1-10)

Close your eyes, and ask Jesus to help you to change your ways and make a fresh start.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1.

GOSPEL (MARK 10:17-25)

A man came to Jesus and asked, "Master, what must I do if I want to share everlasting life with God?" Jesus said, "First, you must obey all of God's commandments."

"I have always tried to live according to the rules of God," the man said. Jesus looked at the man kindly and saw his goodness and love. "Then you must sell everything you own and give all your money away. By doing this you will have riches in heaven, instead of here on earth."

The man left Jesus sadly because he was a very wealthy man. Jesus said to his friends, "It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven."

DISCUSSION

The man in the story wanted Jesus to tell him what to do to make sure he would go to heaven when he died.

First, Jesus told the man that he must obey God's commandments. These rules were given to us by God to help us choose between right and wrong. Then, Jesus told the man that he must give away all his money and everything he owned.

The man went away feeling sad, because although he was a good man, he did not want to give away all of his riches. Everything he owned meant more to him than the message of Jesus.

Jesus said that it was easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Has anyone ever seen a camel? How big are they? How big is a needle? What is the eye of the needle?

At the time that Jesus lived, there was a narrow gate leading into the city of Jerusalem known as "the needle." A camel could not pass through this small gate very easily. By using images of his time, Jesus helped his followers to understand his message.

If you can imagine how difficult it would be for a large camel to climb through a needle's eye, then you can understand what Jesus was trying to tell us!

Jesus wanted the man to understand that it is more important to have riches in heaven than riches on earth. Money can often make people greedy and selfish and forgetful about the needs of others. God measures our wealth by our goodness and by whether or not we are generous and loving.

ACTIVITY

Copy the illustration. Give one of each to every child, and after they have colored it, help them to make a mobile.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, you see and remember
every act of kindness and generosity
and store them in your heart.

Help me to store up my treasure in heaven,
so that I can share everlasting life with you
at the end of time.

