

Thursday, April 2 ~ Make Room for Christ ~ Mark 10:17-31

I enjoy hand embroidery as a hobby and between my eyes and that tiny little needle, it is often frustrating to draw a thread (much less a camel!?!) through the eye. Several places in the Bible Jesus says, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." Sounds a bit confusing and unrealistic, but to repeat it several times, it must have been something Jesus wanted us to clearly understand.

In this parable, Jesus uses the example of the camel to have us consider the huge or strong influence our riches have on our walk with Christ. A camel was one of the largest, strongest and strangest shaped animals of familiarity of the time. Threading a camel through a low-lying town gate at the edge of town during biblical times would have been a chore - having to unload the possessions and coax it to crawl through, manipulating the humps and height - can you imagine? Threading it through a needle would be impossible without divine intervention.

So why single out a rich person? Our human nature to focus on our possessions (or lack of possessions) may be the very thing that hinders us from focusing on God. Comparison, desire, greed, coveting . . . all are traits that inhibit us from being Christ's hands and feet on earth. Our possessions (or lack of) harden our hearts and draw us away from the One who gives us eternal salvation.

During the Lenten season, I invite you to join me in trying to be more like the camel trying to make his way through the gate. Laying down our possessions and desires and manipulating ourselves and our time to make room for Christ. Through Him alone, we are promised eternal life.

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The Rich and the Kingdom of God

¹⁷As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹⁸“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’^[a]”

²⁰“Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

²¹Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

²²At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

²³Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

²⁴The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is^[b] to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁶The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

²⁸Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!”

²⁹“Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Footnotes:

a. [Mark 10:19](#) Exodus 20:12-16; Deut. 5:16-20

b. [Mark 10:24](#) Some manuscripts *is for those who trust in riches*