

Year B

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.

