

CLOW at Home – Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Mark 10:17-27

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: *You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother.*" He replied and said to him, "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor

and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. So Jesus again said to them in reply, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were exceedingly astonished and said among themselves, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God."

At Home Reflection

What is your favorite thing? Some kiddos have a special stuffed animal or blanket or toy or shirt... what is most important to you? Today's Gospel tells us a story about a man who had lots of things. The man was *very* rich. One day, as Jesus was walking along the road, the rich young man came running up to him. "Good teacher," the man said, "what must I do to have eternal life?"

"You know the commandments," Jesus answered. "Do not kill. Do not be unfaithful. Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not cheat. Respect and listen to your father and mother."

The rich young man said, "I have obeyed all of those commandments since I was a little boy!"

Jesus looked at the young man and loved him. Then Jesus said to him, "Go sell all of your things and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard those words, his smile became a frown. He sadly turned and walked away because he owned many things that were very important to him... and he didn't want to give them away to the poor. He was more attached to his *things* than he was to God.

Jesus looked at his disciples and said, "How hard it is for rich people to get into the Kingdom of God!" The disciples were shocked and amazed! Maybe they were thinking, "I thought it was *good* to be rich! I don't understand!"

Jesus continued, "It is very hard to get into the Kingdom of God. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!"

Let's take a moment and imagine that. Think of a great, big camel. It's bigger than a horse! It's got four long legs, a long, thick neck, and a big hump on its back. Now imagine a needle used to sew. It's about as long as your pinkie finger, but it's much, much thinner. It's so small and thin that it could get lost in the carpet if you dropped it! And at the very top of the small little sewing needle is a tiny little oval, called the eye; it's just barely big enough to fit a small string of thread through. Jesus said that it's easier for a big, lumpy camel to go through the teeny tiny little eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God. Whoa!

If the disciples were shocked and amazed before, now they were REALLY astonished! “Then who in the world can be saved?” the disciples asked. Jesus answered, “For human beings, these things are impossible, but not for God. **All** things are possible for God.”

God can do **all** things; even things that may seem completely and totally impossible for us. So God can get a camel through the eye of a needle, and God can get a rich person into His Kingdom. But why do you think it would be so hard for that rich young man who met Jesus to enter the Kingdom of God?

It was not just because he was rich; it was because he loved his things and his money more than he loved God and others. If any of us want to enter the Kingdom of God, we must love God more than all of the other things in our lives.

Let us pray.

(Sign of the Cross)

Dear God, please help us to love *YOU* more than everything else. Amen.

(Sign of the Cross)

At Home Activity: If I had a million dollars...

Ask your child(ren) to imagine that they just won the lottery and have \$1,000,000.

What would they do with it? (Encourage answers that focus on what Jesus asked the rich young man to do with his money – give to the poor. You may want to share that there are kids who do not have food to eat, clean water to drink, a safe home, a good school, warm clothes, shoes for their feet...)

Ask your child(ren) to draw what they would do with their million dollars on the front side of the page, then flip the page over and draw/list ways your child(ren) and family could be good stewards of all you *actually* have. How can you give to help others?

Need some ideas?

October is RESPECT LIFE MONTH and the St. Joseph Social Justice Committee will be collecting donations for Birthright and Bridgehaven pregnancy support centers. You'll find a pack & play crib inside the main doors near the elevator throughout the month. The items that are collected in the pack & play will be provided to mothers in need. Requested items include diapers, formula, blankets, bibs, toys, and other baby essentials.

IF I HAD \$1,000,000...