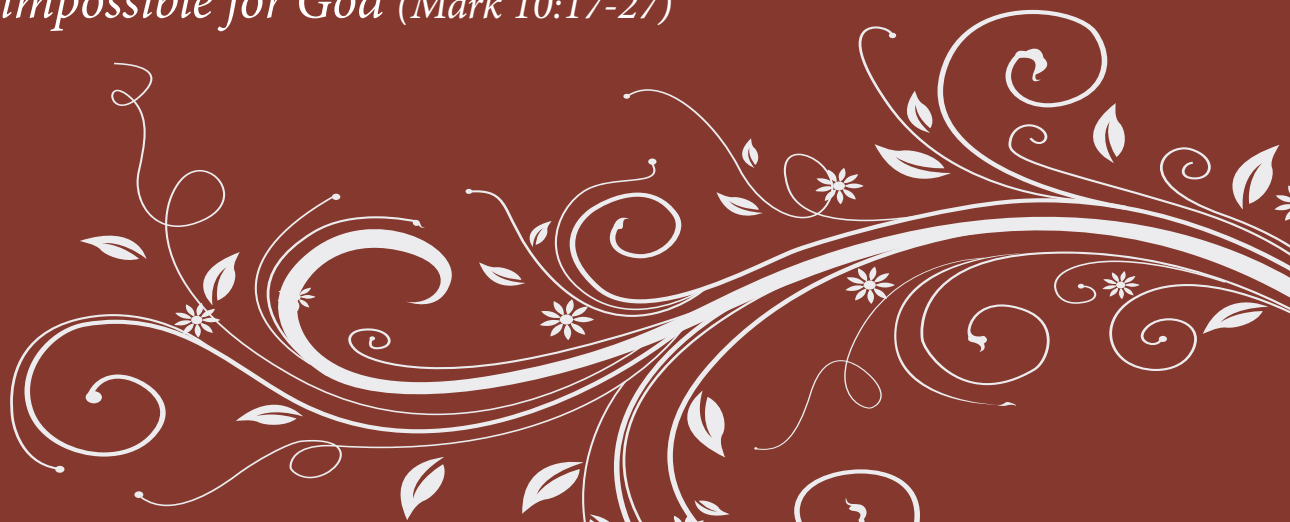




CELEBRATING AT HOME

28TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Nothing is impossible for God (Mark 10:17-27)



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Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

We are the body of Christ.

**We are gathered with the whole Church,
in this moment of prayer.**

Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus,
you lead us to salvation.

Lord Jesus,
you are the love of God present among us.

Lord Jesus,
your love binds us to one another.

Scripture Reading (*Mark 10:17-27*)

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; you must not commit adultery; you must not steal; you must not bring false witness; you must not defraud; you must honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked around and said to the disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the Kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children', he said to them, '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 a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case,' they said to one another, 'who can be saved?' Jesus

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

Reflection - *Nothing is impossible for God*

In the Jewish tradition, wealth was seen as a blessing from God and the wealthy person as especially favoured by God. Along with the idea of divine blessing and favour came a divine obligation (often ignored) – the care of God's poor.

As the conversation between the rich man and Jesus unfolds, we see that he a good and upright man. The commandments which Jesus spells out are those to do with one's treatment of others. These, the rich man says, he has always kept.

Jesus' love and affection for the man recognises his very genuine efforts to live according to the commandments. This love ushers in the call to discipleship: 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' Jesus wants this man to be a follower of his. He is inviting him to move from a way of life centred on the Torah (Jewish law) to a way of life centred totally on Jesus.

When the man first approaches Jesus he asks what more he must do to inherit eternal life while still maintaining the present direction of his life. What Jesus is inviting him into is the total transformation of his life – to go in a new direction. Jesus is inviting him to an even more radical fulfilment of his obligations to neighbour by selling all he has, giving the proceeds to the poor, and then becoming a follower of Jesus.

Rather sadly, the rich man cannot take this step. He is trapped and controlled by his possessions and cannot let them go in order to enter into joyful and life-giving companionship with Jesus.

When Jesus talks about how hard it is for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God the disciples are astounded. They, too, think of wealth and possessions as a sign of God's favour and blessing. Jesus drives home his point by insisting that, 'It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' The disciples are

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even more astounded and conclude that if rich people can't make it into the kingdom, then what hope do the rest of us have?

Jesus' reply to the disciples tells us clearly that if we rely on human resources and means it is impossible to find salvation. But if we rely on God, then we can be saved - the good and gracious God who gives the Kingdom as pure, unmerited gift.

Sometimes, the very things we love, in which we find our security and in which we place our trust can turn out to be our undoing and stumbling blocks on our journey into the kingdom.

Jesus' reply about God who can do the impossible is also a reassurance that God stands ready to journey with us, to help us find the way to move our hearts from reliance on ourselves and human resources to rely on God's love and companionship.

Prayers of Intercession

For the whole Church.

May we find our true wealth in loving service.

In the midst of so much choice and goodness, spiritual and material,
grant us true wisdom and discernment.

May that Word continue to bring us to life,
especially in moments of discouragement and struggle.

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus, we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Closing Prayer

May we find your heart within our own, O Lord,
and place our hope in you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

Bless us, O Lord,
and bless all whom we meet this week.
Amen.



Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites for use by individuals, families and small groups as a prayerful celebration of the Word of God to help prepare us to celebrate the Eucharist with our worshipping communities. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. We are also conscious of the many people who, for various reasons including sickness and infirmity, cannot physically attend the Eucharist. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family.



The Carmelites
Australia & Timor-Leste

PRAYER · COMMUNITY · SERVICE

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