

Sunday October 10th, 2021
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Parishioner Reflection

By: Gerald Mackrell

Hebrews: 12-13 describes in intimate detail the knowledge God possesses of each one of us. He is able to judge the thoughts, the emotions and even the intentions of the heart. And before God no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Even the smallest detail in our lives gets the attention of God. This intimate knowledge God possesses of us, allows Him to exert all His influence in the direction of our eternal destiny.

Wisdom 7:7. I called on God and the spirit of wisdom came to me. This is followed by, I preferred her (wisdom) to position, wealth, gold or silver, compared to wisdom they are nothing. In her hands there is uncounted wealth, this uncounted wealth is understanding what is written in scripture, the wealth in the word of God. God has infinite knowledge of each one of us, He wants all of us to have much knowledge of Him.

Mark 10: 17-30 As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him. "You know the commandments; You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." He said to Jesus, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell all you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When the man heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Jesus then said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God. Children, 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." His disciples asked, "Who then can be saved?"

As for the camel walking through the eye of a needle. I recalled having a discussion on this very subject with an old priest I once knew, one Fr. Bill Lynch. In 1986 he told me that Jerusalem was a large walled city with many large gates. Every evening these gates were closed and locked, for security reasons, all except one. The eye of the needle. This

was a very small gate, (easily guarded) open to latecomers to the city. These late travellers arrived in camel trains, camels being beasts of burden, carrying huge loads which usually included the entire possessions of these nomadic families. The camels had to be naked / stripped bare of all possessions that they might negotiate this tiny gate and enter the city. This gate does not exist in the walls of Jerusalem today. However, there is record of its existence as far back as the ninth century.

What a beautiful analogy Jesus provided for His disciples. The rich young man loved the accumulated wealth he had amassed in this world and was reluctant to discard this love of his life. What baggage are we carrying? Lust, Hate, Jealousy, Fear, Money, Bigotry.....? The baggage we tend to accumulate due to our sinful nature must be discarded as we make our way along the narrow road of life. As we approach the eye of the needle, the gateway to the City of God, all will be naked, all will be laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Every jot and tittle of our lives is vitally important to God our Father, because of His forgiving nature and desire to have us return to Glory and eternal life, all the influence we will afford Him to correct our paths in our journey through life requires Him to know the very core of our being.

We on our behalf must seek the wisdom of His word.

Look to wisdom the truth is in her hands
In death the die has been cast