

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: *Show me, show me little candle.*

SORRY

If we have turned away from God, He is always ready to forgive us. Listen to this story:

Zacchaeus was a tax collector who was very rich because he 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 that he would change his ways and try hard to be kind and loving to everyone.

Close your eyes as you say 'sorry' quietly in your heart, and ask Jesus to help us to change our ways and make a fresh start.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1: *Share your word with us.*

GOSPEL (cf 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

What did the man want Jesus to tell him? – The man wanted to know what to do to make sure that

he would go to heaven when he died.

What answer did Jesus give? – 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.

How did the man feel when he heard the words of Jesus? – 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 do we mean by the eye of the needle?

If you imagine how difficult it would be, for a large camel to climb through a needle, then you can understand what Jesus was trying to tell us!

(In this story Jesus was talking about a narrow gate leading into the city of Jerusalem, known as 'the Needle'. A camel could not pass through this gate easily, and in this way Jesus helped his followers to understand his message.)

Why did Jesus want the man to give up what he owned? – He 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 whether we are generous and loving, and prepared to share what we have with others.

ACTIVITY

Photocopy the illustration. Give one of each to every child, and after colouring, 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.