

**SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

YEAR B

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

We want nothing
but you, God;
you are the greatest treasure.
Do not allow us
to be greedy and selfish,
thinking we are important
because of the things we own.
Instead, let us rely
completely on you
and on the teaching
of your son, Jesus,
who lives with you
and the Holy Spirit,
forever and ever.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Both of our readings focus on the choice to be made between God and riches. In the first reading, wisdom is desired more than “all the riches I could have.” Wisdom here is not knowledge, but a personification of God, an image of God. It is, therefore, God who is preferred more than riches. In our Gospel passage, Jesus challenges a man to “sell everything you have—then come follow me.” When the man rejects this challenge, Jesus tells his disciples that it is harder for a rich person to enter heaven than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle. Biblically, riches seem to be an obstacle to a deep relationship with God. But the meaning of the Gospel goes beyond material wealth. It is a call to put aside anything and everything that keeps us from following Jesus wholeheartedly.

This is a reading from the book of Wisdom.

I prayed for the spirit of wisdom
and she came to me
and helped me to understand all things.
Wisdom is more important to me
than all the riches I could have.
She is more wonderful
than the most expensive jewels.
She is more important to me
than power or even health.
And when I have true wisdom,
I have everything else that is good.

This is the Word of God.

RESPONSE: Psalm 90

RESPONSE:



Fill us with your gift of love. Help us find our joy in you. joy in you.

VERSES:



1. God, our God, ev-er - last - ing. May our hearts al-ways turn to you.
2. God, our God, ev-er - last - ing. Bless the work that we do to - day.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
“Noth - ing is im - pos - si - ble, God can do all things.”

GOSPEL: *Mark 10:17-27*

This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark.

One day a man ran up to Jesus and knelt down in front of him, and asked,

“Good Teacher, what do I have to do so that I will live with God forever?”

Jesus said,

“You know the commandments:
You must not steal. You must not kill.
You must not sin
against your husband or wife.
You must not cheat. You must not lie.
Honor your mother and father.”

The man said,

“Teacher,
I have always kept these commandments,
ever since I was a little child.”

Jesus looked at the young man with love and said,

“There is still one more thing you must do.
Go and sell everything you have
and give the money to the poor.
God will reward you for doing this.
Then come and follow me.”

When Jesus said this,
the young man went away very sad,
because he owned many things.

Then Jesus said to his disciples,

“It is very hard for a rich person
to enter the kingdom of God.
It is easier for a camel
to get through the eye of a needle
than for a rich person
to enter the kingdom of God.”

The disciples were shocked at this and asked,

“Then how is it possible
for anyone to be saved and go to heaven?”

Jesus said,

“You cannot save yourselves. God saves you.
God can do all things
for nothing is impossible for God.”

This is the Good News of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

After the Gospel, ask the children to recall the story. If they have difficulty recalling, you might ask questions such as these:

- What did the man ask Jesus?
- Why did Jesus answer with the 10 commandments?
- Can you remember what those commandments are?

But the man wanted to know what more he could do for God.

- What did Jesus answer?
- How did the man respond to what Jesus said?
- Why did Jesus say,
“It is easier for a camel to get through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of heaven!”

Help the children understand that Jesus did *not* say that rich people are not going to heaven. It is not money itself that Jesus asks us to give up. It is holding on to things—letting possessions come between God and us. This man’s possessions meant more to him than being a disciple of Jesus. Perhaps for another person it would not be money or things, but holding on to a certain idea about something or someone. Jesus may be asking some to give up some of their time to help others.

You may need to develop this point rather than eliciting it from the children. After you have developed it, they may be able to offer some ideas on it.

The children should leave understanding that the point of the two readings is that our love for God, and following Jesus, is more precious than anything we could have or own.