

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

October 8-14, 2018

Worship as encounter with the living God cannot be limited to one hour per week. "Weekday Worship" invites you to extend your worship beyond the sanctuary, to hear the story of the Bible as your story, lived out each day of each week. Feedback is appreciated and should be directed to Rita Boyer.

BIBLE READING

This week's reading is: Mark 10:17–31 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?q=404366527>).

Other readings are: Job 23:1–9, 16–17; Psalm 22:1–15; Hebrews 4:12–16.

The theme is: Finding Our Way.

If you have ever regretted asking someone a question because you were unprepared for the answer, you will be able to identify with the character in this week's story. A wealthy man asks Jesus an important question that many have had. How can he gain God's favor? How can he live in God's new reality? While we sometimes hear in that question a reference to heaven, Jews of Jesus' time were awaiting God's realm on earth. This man of means knows the Scriptures, but something is evidently lacking. The answer that Jesus gives is hard to hear: "sell what you own, and give the money to the poor" (verse 21). Really?! The man is familiar with biblical commands to care for the poor, but is such extreme action required? Evidently the rich man is not the only one who winces at Jesus' advice, because scholars and others have tried to find reasonable explanations for Jesus' metaphor about a camel going through the eye of a needle, but those interpretations may be distracting us from what we do not want to hear. Jesus says it is just as ludicrous to think that a wealthy person can enter the realm of God as it is to think that a camel can get through the eye of a needle! It is not that God rejects the wealthy, but rather that those who are concerned with acquiring wealth for themselves cannot be concerned with the poor, who are God's concern. Are we willing to invest everything we have and are in God's Kingdom? Jesus is asking something that seems impossible, but he extends love to the man. He tells the disciples that God makes things possible. It is the love of God that empowers us to do what we could not otherwise imagine.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

"Questions to Consider" enable you to connect your story to the biblical story. Rather than easy questions to be answered at first glance, these questions or reflections can be returned to and meditated upon throughout the week.

What three possessions would you find most difficult to give up?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of October 7:

In quiet meditation imagine Jesus embracing you.

As you leave his embrace, who is it that you are called to embrace?

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