

Discussion & Reflection Questions

Pentecost 20C - Sunday 23rd of October 2022

Read: Luke 18:15-30

¹⁵ People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. ¹⁶ But Jesus called for them and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁷ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' ¹⁸ A certain ruler asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' ¹⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments: "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honour your father and mother." ' ²¹ He replied, 'I have kept all these since my youth.' ²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, 'There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' ²³ But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich. ²⁴ Jesus looked at him and said, 'How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ Indeed, 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.' ²⁶ Those who heard it said, 'Then who can be saved?' ²⁷ He replied, 'What is impossible for mortals is possible for God.' ²⁸ Then Peter said, 'Look, we have left our homes and followed you.' ²⁹ And he said to them, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, ³⁰ who will not get back very much more in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.'

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. Do you ever read or hear a bible passage & before you've finished think to yourself - I know what that's about? How do you make sure the bible seems fresh each time you hear or read it?
2. Our parish is in a pretty affluent part of the Gold Coast, & Australian in general. It might be harder to see the outsiders in these types of communities - who do you think the outsiders are where you live?
3. Who are the people we look up to & aspire to be in our culture? Can you see anything problematic with looking up to these types of people?
4. "Kingdom economics is about the first being last, the last being first..." What are the challenges of implementing Kingdom economics in today's "westernised, democratic" world?

5. We are challenged by this passage to re-think everything. What types of things do think you need to re-think at the moment?
6. How should we use our privileged positions as both followers of Christ & those who might be in a more comfortable position than others in our world?
7. What sort of things would need to change for you to be able to give more than you get in return in the various parts of your life?

Prayer:

Almighty and everlasting God, give to us the increase of faith, hope and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us to love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.