



‘Worship at home’ Sunday October 13th 2024



We set this time aside to worship God,
and to grow in faith.

Opening

Let us come to worship God, reminding ourselves:
that it is not we who chose Christ,

but Christ who chose us;

that we are not here because of our goodness

but because of Christ’s grace;

that we are not here to enlighten ourselves,

but to allow Christ to enlighten us;

that we have not come to be entertained

but to worship God with heart, soul, mind and strength.

~ adapted from Bruce Prewer <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

**As a child, did you have a special teddy or doll
that you couldn’t do without?**

**Over your life, have you gathered particular items
which are special or important to you?**

Are you a minimalist, or a sentimental hoarder?

Have you had to move frequently, or ‘downsize’?

sell
whatever you have

give
to the poor

come
take up the cross &

follow me
Mark 10:21

Over the years, many of us tend to accumulate “stuff”, which we become attached to. It can be difficult to let go of what we hold dear. Jesus consistently calls us to let go, put ourselves aside, serve others, and lose our lives in order to be saved. We are challenged to consider the things we hold on to, that might get in the way of our relationship with God and fullness of life in Christ.

Mark 10:17-31

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honour your father and mother.'"

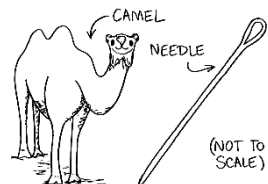
"Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children,

how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 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."

The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." Then Peter spoke up, "We have left everything to follow you!" "Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

New International Version



WHY IS JESUS
SO HARD
ON THE
RICH GUY?



WELL- HE'S
GOT SO MUCH
STUFF.
HE CAN'T SEE
A WAY TO GIVE
IT UP TO FOLLOW
JESUS.



BOY! I WISH
I HAD THAT
PROBLEM!



MAYBE YOU DO.



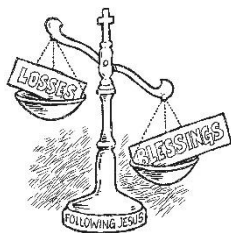
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Prayer of Confession

Loving God, you call us to give our all to follow you, but so often we put up barriers, and hold tight to our possessions, our pride, our anger, our selfishness. Forgive us our attachments to worldly things; forgive us when we are more concerned with what others think of us than our relationship with you; forgive us when we are so caught up in our own desires that we ignore the needs of others. Challenge us to let go of that which keeps us from following you.

Assurance of Grace

We know in Christ, all things are possible. In Him we are set free from all that has hold of us, we are loved and forgiven. Amen.



For some, it is not our money or possessions that hinder us from following Jesus, but our pride, anger, or selfishness, our need to be in control, our place in society, or our unhealthy relationships. Following Jesus demands a reordering of priorities, a change of focus, letting go and trusting. Following Jesus comes with a certain vulnerability, as we place God at the centre of our lives and allow God to lead, wherever that might take us. For some of us, this is more difficult to do than it is a camel to go through the eye of a needle. Impossible. Yet all things are possible with God. Jesus assures us that if we take this risk, we will receive more blessings than we ever gave up.

**What might you let go of in order to
follow Jesus more closely?**

*Take my silver, and my gold,
nothing, Lord, would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.*



*Take my will and make it thine,
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.*

*Take my love: my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.*

Frances Ridley Havergal 1836–79 alt.

Prayer

Take our lives, loving God; take our hands to do your will; take our feet to walk with you; take our voices to sing your praise; take our lips to proclaim the good news of your love and mercy to those around us.



We give thanks for the things in our lives which we treasure: family, friends, safety, happiness, comfort. Help us to not hold these too closely or take them for granted.

We pray for those who are wealthy and strong, that they might be challenged to give, and to receive. We pray for those who go without, that they might have enough. We pray that each of us might show care and compassion and grace, prioritising the needs of others.

Take our minds, our hearts, our will, our whole selves, that we may be wholly yours. Amen

“We have left everything to follow you!”

Closing

May we go this week,
with nothing but ourselves to offer,
knowing that the abundant blessing of God,
the gracious love of Christ,
and the strength of the Holy Spirit
keeps us in eternal life. Amen