



South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

13th October 2024

20th Sunday after Trinity

Hello Everyone, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well.

Have you had conversations about Christmas plans yet? I am pretty insistent most of the time about getting Harvest and Remembrance and All Souls out of the way before spending too much time planning Christmas – personal plans, that is, even I admit that the Church plans for the Christmas season have to be in place before then, so that we can shoe-horn everything into the calendar. Some of the conversations have already started, of course, and I've already been asked what I want for Christmas. It's a lovely question – it often means 'what can I give you to show you how much you matter to me?' A good friend of mine always responds "anything I'm going to use up or eat", because she feels that she has enough 'stuff' in her home and her life.

Keeping on top of the amount of 'stuff' can take some time in our culture. Our highstreets are full of charity shops, there to allow some people to control the 'stuff' in their homes and to help other people to acquire that stuff. And to allow some other people to take photos of some of the more unusual stuff and mock it on Facebook pages with names like 'Weird stuff found in charity shops.'

A great deal of the 'stuff' in my house – and there is definitely too much stuff – came from charity shops, but the very experience of having 'too much' stuff, wherever it came from, is an experience of wealth. Relative wealth, of course, but wealth nonetheless. Far too many people in the world – including some of our neighbours here in South Wye – can carry all of their possessions all at the same time. Or have had a time in their life when they have had to choose the possessions that they would carry away from their homes to flee to safety.

In Jesus' lifetime the same issues of relative – and absolute – wealth and poverty were built into the culture. Some of the same assumptions were built in too – like the underlying belief that rich people have probably done something good to deserve their good fortune, and that the absolutely poor may have done something to deserve their situation too. There is a hint of this understanding in the exchange between Jesus and the rich young man in this Sunday's Gospel reading.

The man asks what he must 'do' to gain eternal life. Many of us, rich and poor, have asked this question, implying that like this young man we think of eternal life as something that can be gained through human action. Is this why Jesus presents him with a test he knows the man will not pass? Perhaps Jesus forces the man to realise that if eternal life is something to be earned, he will fail. This is bleak news, until Jesus says, 'for God all things are possible': the initiative is with God. With God's help – and not without it - we can rid ourselves of the 'stuff' cluttering up our hearts and homes.

With God's help we can live lives that bring us to his promise of eternal life.

With every blessing, Anne
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rector@stmartinshereford.org.uk

Family and Community News

Messy Church Harvest at the Scout Hut!

18th October, 3.30-5pm

All welcome, adults must be accompanied by a child!

Toastie and Warm at St Martin's

On Tuesday afternoons the Narthex at St Martin's is a busy and welcoming space.

From 1pm there is a Bible Study group, all welcome.

From 2pm there is a coffee afternoon, full of conversations and information, with chocolate biscuits and, usually, home-made cakes. Everyone is welcome to come along to any – or all – parts of the afternoon.

Catching up with friends – or making new ones!

Young at Heart - First Thursday of each month – Lunch (contact the office so that we can book)
Third Thursday of each month at 2pm – Meeting in St. Martin's Church – talks, games, refreshments and friendship – everyone welcome!

Services at Belmont Community Centre

If you live in or near Belmont and find the journey to St Martin's difficult, or if Sunday mornings are not easy for you, you might like to join us for Friday Communion at Belmont Community Centre.

We celebrate a said service of Holy Communion at 12:30pm on the Second and Fourth Fridays of each month, following FoodShare. Everyone is very welcome to this service. The hall has level access and good ventilation – and if the weather is good we celebrate outside. **The next services at Belmont are: 12.30pm Holy Communion – October 11th & 25th, November 8th & 15th**

St Martin's Bonus Ball Scheme

The next payment for the bonus ball scheme is due at the beginning of October, for the period October 2024 to March 2025. If you do not pay by standing order, could you please pay your £26 for each ball you have to the office by cash or cheque. Cheques should be made payable to St Martin with St Francis Roof Account.

Alternatively, you can pay directly to the account, sort code 30-80-55, account number 42121368.

There are numbers available if you wish to increase your chances of winning and to raise more money for the church. Please contact the office or myself. Many thanks for your support, *Sue Cockroft*

Crisis in Gaza: Christian Aid at work

We must be all horrified by the situation in Gaza. The war there has brought deaths, injury and the widespread destruction of homes, schools and hospitals. But Christian Aid is at work with local people on the ground to deliver medical relief and support community-led initiatives that provide food, shelter, sanitation, cash and psychological support.

However, they need our help – they ask for our prayers and our giving. We pray for the situation Sunday by Sunday and we can add our personal prayers too.

As for giving, we can make financial donations through St Martin's. There will be a retiring collection today for the Christian Aid Gaza appeal. The appeal will close next Sunday 20th October.

Please give generously. There cannot be a cause in more urgent need of our prayers and our money than the terrible events unfolding right now in Gaza. Even if a cease-fire comes, the need for food and medical care, and for the renewal of buildings and life as a whole, will go on for a long time to come.

For our Prayers

Those who are ill or in need of your prayers, including:

Bill	James	Joan	Paul	Sheila	Ann W	Brenda B	Joy
Sue	Christina	Betty	Mandy	Jesusa	Chris	Lorraine	Mel

Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

Martin Roger

Anglican Communion:

Episcopal Church in the Philippines.

Hereford:

Leominster Deanery

Porvoo:

England: Truro; Norway: Tönsberg; Sweden: Strängnäs.

South Wye:

Please pray for those who live in Hinton

The Wider View:

Give thanks for the International Cross of Nails fellowship, and pray for schools becoming Cross of Nails Schools or considering this.

In the week of World Food Day, pray for all who go hungry or lack food security, and that we may share more equally, give special help to the neediest, and cut down on food waste.

The Day for the Eradication of Poverty also falls this week. Pray for programmes to bring lasting relief from poverty, and to provide for those living in poverty the power and means to rebuild their lives.

Conflict Resolution Day this week prompts prayer for the work of mediation and arbitration services to help resolve conflict situations in peaceful ways.

St Luke's Day on Friday prompts prayers of thanksgiving for Luke as a Gospel voice, a historian of the Church and a witness to Paul. Pray too for the healing ministry, and for hospital and hospice chaplains.

Friday is also Anti-Slavery Day. Pray for the release of all who are trapped in situations of modern slavery, for awareness and for decisive action by governments and agencies.

Pray for all who live with epilepsy: for improvements in treatment and support, and in access to work and benefits.

Pray for village and community halls, for those who run them and those who use their facilities.

Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio For the week beginning 13th October

South Wye Services Through the Week:

8pm Night Prayer from Common Worship – on St. Martin's Facebook page

Sunday

9:30am Holy Communion at St. Martin's

11.15am Family Service at St. Peter's

Thursday

10am Said Communion in St. Martin's Lady Chapel

The 9.30am service will be streamed on St. Martin's Facebook page and will be available on the St. Martin's and the St. Peter's Facebook pages and the St. Martin's YouTube channel later in the day.

Diocese of Hereford

Diocese of Hereford Facebook: Sunday Service 10am.

Church of England

National Weekly Service Facebook at 9am.

TV and Radio on Sunday;

Radio 4 8.10am Sunday Worship-Nation Shall Speak Peace Unto Nation

BBC 1 1.15pm Songs of Praise- Celebrating Gospel Music

Prayer for the day:

The Church of England website has audio and text of the Prayer for the Day.

Prayer for the Nation

The Archbishops continue to invite all to call on God in Prayer. We invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. Find more details at churchengland.org/resources/prayer-nation

Collect for 20th Sunday after Trinity

God, our light and our salvation:

illuminate our lives,

that we may see your goodness in the land of the living,

and looking on your beauty

may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for 20th Sunday after Trinity

Amos 5: 6-7, 10-15

Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. ⁷ Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! ¹⁰ They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. ¹¹ Therefore, because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. ¹² For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins - you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. ¹³ Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. ¹⁴ Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. ¹⁵ Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Psalm 90: 12-17

12 So teach us to number our days ♦ that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
13 Turn again, O Lord; how long will you delay? ♦ Have compassion on your servants.
14 Satisfy us with your loving-kindness in the morning, ♦
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
15 Give us gladness for the days you have afflicted us, ♦
and for the years in which we have seen adversity.
16 Show your servants your works, ♦ and let your glory be over their children.
17 May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon us; ♦
prosper our handiwork; O prosper the work of our hands.

Hebrews 4: 12-end

¹² Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.
¹⁴ Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

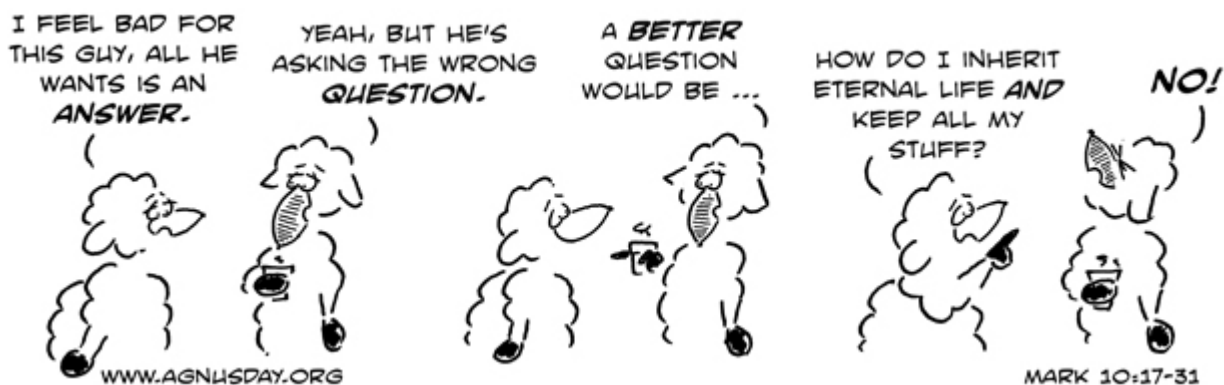


Mark 10: 17-31

¹⁷ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother."' ²⁰ He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ 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 They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

²⁸ Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' ²⁹ Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age - houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions - and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'



Bible Study based on Mark 10:17-31

Bible notes

Once again, Mark presents a moment of decision that squeezes the hearts of an unnamed man, Peter and the disciples and, indeed, Jesus himself. It begins with a seemingly simple question (v.17). Jesus' initial response is abrasive though not unsympathetic. It is a serious question. First, the man asks what he must do and Jesus' answer seems reassuring – note Jesus' attitude to the man (v.21). But the second part of the answer is crushing and costs far too much. The man's response and his subsequent actions expose his concerns and his unwillingness to go the whole way with God (v.22). His anxiety is for himself, for what he thinks he will lose.

The middle part of the story (vv.23- 27) might suggest that Jesus rejects all wealth. The saying about the camel and the eye of a needle is of a proverbial type and is intended to be absurd in order to heighten the response: 'Then who can be saved?' The answer is in the final statement 'for God all things are possible' (v.27). The ending of this scene is courtesy of Peter and the disciples. They have seen a desirable addition to their group seemingly waved away, but they are also conscious of their own situation as people who did drop everything to follow Jesus. Jesus' response is to remind them that they have their reward – not a monetary one but becoming members of a new community in the extended family of God's people. The final epigrammatic saying (v.31) is part of the escalation of the radical and transforming nature of God's kingdom. The subversion of the expected triumph of God's chosen one began with Jesus' first of the three predictions of his death and resurrection. There is no turning back, Jerusalem is in his sights. To adapt the words of the BBC's Mastermind, 'He's started so he will finish' – but will the disciples?

Reflection

Which is the true me? Most of us present ourselves carefully to God and the world. But if God knows us and loves us, why might trusting in him completely be such a risk? What if trusting all to God doesn't diminish or restrict our lives but enhances them? So, what holds us back from committing totally to God? After all, God has committed himself completely to his creation and to us in Jesus' death and resurrection.

Questions for reflection

- What do you make of this image – its title is 'With God all things are possible'?
- What is the difference between what is possible and what is wise?
- How might we encourage ourselves and others to develop a wise heart?



Sudoku

7	4				3			
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1		3		5	8			
9							4	
				1				
						7	5	
	5		7		4		2	1
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6	3	7				4		8

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9		8					2	
5		3		4				1
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4	1	2	3	8	9	5	7	6
8	5	9	7	6	4	3	2	1
2	8	1	9	4	6	7	5	3
3	7	4	5	1	2	6	8	9
9	6	5	8	3	7	1	4	2
1	2	3	4	5	8	9	6	7
5	9	8	6	7	1	2	3	4
7	4	6	2	9	3	8	1	5

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5	2	3	9	4	8	7	6	1
9	1	8	6	7	3	5	2	4
3	8	7	2	6	9	4	1	5
4	9	2	8	5	1	6	3	7
6	5	1	7	3	4	9	8	2
8	3	4	5	1	6	2	7	9
2	6	5	3	9	7	1	4	8
1	7	9	4	8	2	3	5	6

Sudoku (Trickier)

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6	7	9	3	8	5	4	2	1
5	1	3	9	2	4	7	6	8
4	8	2	7	1	6	9	3	5
3	4	7	8	9	2	1	5	6
1	2	6	5	3	7	8	4	9
9	5	8	4	6	1	3	7	2

Wordsearch based on Hebrews 4: 12-end

F	J	A	G	A	C	T	I	V	E	P	X	A	Y	B
C	V	P	D	I	V	I	D	E	S	Z	X	C	W	R
B	N	E	E	D	E	E	D	N	I	L	R	R	C	G
L	W	F	O	U	V	X	P	Q	P	E	H	P	L	R
S	I	W	E	O	R	Y	T	I	M	E	C	I	N	A
O	H	V	G	D	F	E	S	H	A	R	P	E	R	C
U	V	Z	I	M	G	G	S	S	G	Y	T	R	R	E
L	Q	X	W	N	A	E	S	P	I	O	O	C	D	V
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Z	H	A	O	U	N	K	S	P	L	X	T	K	E	K

INDEED
TESTED
SPIRIT
TWO
TIME

PIERCING
LIVING
THRONE
CREATURE
SWORD

RESPECT
SOUL
SHARPER
MERCY
HEAVENS

WORD
SIN
MARROW
EDGED
NEED

DIVIDES
ACTIVE
GRACE
PASSED