

The Art of the Possible

For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.

NOW
INTO THE WORLD

Reflection on art

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.



The camel has to be unloaded completely, then coaxed onto its knees so that it can crawl through the small gate which is called "The Eye of the Needle." Apparently the large gate was closed at night. Anyone wishing to enter afterwards would have to use the small gate, or the "eye." Some say Jesus meant a literal "eye" of a sewing needle - this may be so, because another translation of the Aramaic word gamla, translated here as camel, means rope! Either way, the degree of difficulty certainly seems to be the same.

It's clear that riches can hinder a wealthy individual from growing spiritually. The main obstacle may be our own pride. It's easy to put trust in wealth since wealth is visible and tangible; but, we are told that with God anything is possible – there is a cost, and the cost may be everything –the good news, however, is that one can also gain everything. The disciples were astonished and wondered who could possibly be saved. God works it out in God's own way.

October 14th 2018

Proper 23 | Mark 10:17-31

Reflection Questions

- As you reflect on this image and the Gospel reading, consider these questions:
- To abandon houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children, fields, for the sake of Jesus: how does this take place in your life? What have you already received in response? What are you expecting?
- What are the impossible things in your life for which you need God's help? Have you spoken to God and asked for help and guidance? How have you followed up on your conversations with God?
- How can the saying that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle be applied today? Can you think of some contemporary examples?

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