**Sunday 13th October 2024: Mark 10: 17-31**: **The Man Who Jesus Loved.**

*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[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+10%3A17-31&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-24604a)*] 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[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+10%3A17-31&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-24607b)*] 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,[*[*c*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+10%3A17-31&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-24609c)*] ‘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,[*[*d*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+10%3A17-31&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-24612d)*] 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.’*

**Notes**

Were Jesus dealings with the Rich Young Ruler harsh? Luke’s version [Ch 18], is just one chapter away from Zacchaeus [Luke 19], who only offered half of what he had. Has Jesus applied inconsistent standards? But we often overlook an important point in v21. Jesus “loved him”. Jesus wanted this man to be released from the hold money had over him.

We too can be increasingly released from the hold money has over us when we start to give away freely and not under compulsion. It’s not easy – Jesus admits that. But it can be done. A camel can get through the eye of a needle if the loads and burdens that it’s carrying removed first. It’s the same for us.

We might feel in fact we are already generous, and indeed many Anglicans are – but whilst we might support all kinds of worthy other charities, we don’t think of supporting our local parish Church.

So before walking away from the possibility of starting to give regularly or increasing our gift, let’s ask ourselves a) Am I a person of faith? b) Do I realise that Jesus loves me? and c) Do I value my local parish Church and Diocese, it’s mission and ministry?

How much we might give is a private matter between each of us and God. But let’s all reflect on these questions and the fact we are created in the image of a generous God.

**End**