



# **March Team Ministry**

**March Team St John, St Mary, St Peter, St Wendreda**

*Welcome*

**19th Sunday after Trinity ~ 10th October 2021**

Please keep in touch with one another, and I am always glad to hear from you on 01354 279232 or at [andrew.marchurch@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.marchurch@gmail.com)

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*We are keeping services much the same; staying away if ill, wearing masks, washing hands and respecting distance. We have congregational singing for those wearing masks. We continue to keep people safe and to feel safe.*

**~ Services with Social Distancing ~**

**St Peter's Sundays 8am & 11am; Wednesdays 10am**

**St Mary's Sundays 9.15am**

**St John's Sundays 9.30am; Tuesdays 10am**

**St Wendreda's Sundays 11am**

**THIS SUNDAY ~ Civic Service ~ 2pm ~ St Mary's**

**"Stay in touch, take care, keep safe, continue praying and God bless."**

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## **Prayers for this week**

God of wisdom, whose word probes the motives of our hearts, with you all things are possible. Let worldly treasure not keep us from Jesus who looks on us with love. Free us to leave all things and follow him, who lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever.

Amen.

God of the narrow way, you call us to shed all that burdens the lightness of life: help us to surrender false wealth, embrace our need of you, and live for your kingdom above all things; through Jesus Christ, the richness of God.

Amen.

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## **Mark 10 v17-31**

*As Jesus 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?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. 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." ' He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' 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.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.*

*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!' 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! 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.' They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said,*

*Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' 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, 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. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'*

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## **Meditation**

Adults can very well enter the kingdom of God, but they will find more obstacles in the way, because they are really too big for it. And a rich man will find more obstacles than a poor man, because he has so much to lose.

Just listen.

Jesus is pursuing his way. A man rushes up to him, falls on his knees before him and asks, *'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?'*

No longer a child, a well-to-do man. But also an anxious man, uncertain about the way to go. Apparently he has all his heart desires, but in kneeling he confesses his pain because real life is passing him by. *'Good master, what must I do to share in it?'*

*'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. 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."'*

Why so anxious, my friend? No One is good but God alone. God **is**, and God is **good**. Let this thought free you from all your uncertainty and all your anxiety. And just observe the commandments.

*Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.'*  
*Jesus, looking at him, loved him.*

This man is so honest in his restlessness and in his striving for the good. Despite his efforts, the kingdom of God has remained an alien and distant reality for him. He's a seeker, but he can't find what he is looking for, nor can he buy it, either with his money or his virtues. What is there between this child of man who is no longer a child, and the kingdom of God?

*'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.'*

God **is**, and God is **good**. If that's at the heart of your life, you needn't cling on to your money and your possessions. You've found your security in God; the Eternal One is your wealth and the ground of your existence. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall lack nothing. Those who know that God holds them fast can let go of everything else without losing anything. Then they're like children who have no trouble parting with their toys because they've grown out of them. *'Go, sell all you have and give to the poor.'* His face fell and he went away sorrowful, for he had many possessions.

A failed calling? At all events for the moment, the sower's seed has fallen among the thorns, where it is choked by earthly cares and the fascination of riches. Just imagine that this man had done what Jesus asked him. Then the world would have been richer by a poor man and an eccentric: someone who opted for poverty as an expression of the highest freedom and a deep security. But he didn't. He couldn't make it. He went away sorrowful.

The disciples, too, are defeated. In desperation they look at Jesus. And Jesus looks at them. *'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.'*

Jesus calls them children. Children of the one Father who **is**, and is **good**.

Brothers and sisters who find among one another the riches of a new sense of security, when, following Jesus, they've given up their former support: family, money, and possessions. Isn't their reward great, already now and soon in eternal life, when the first shall be last, and the last first?

The children are afraid. All doors on earth open before those who have money and possessions, but not the door of the kingdom of God. *'Then who can be saved?'* Jesus looked at them. *'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'*

Not only must a rich man give up a great deal; everyone must become detached, and so it's difficult, if not impossible, for anyone really to become poor in spirit. But if the power of the spirit of God comes over a person, it **is** possible.

Jesus' followers felt extremely uncomfortable about this, and that has never changed.

## God bless, Andrew

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### Prayers

Blessed are you poor, **for yours is the kingdom of God.**  
Blessed are you that hunger now, **for you shall be satisfied.**  
Blessed are you that weep now, **for you shall laugh.**

Blessed are you when others hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man,  
**rejoice in that day, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.**

But woe to you that are rich, **for you have received your consolation.**

Woe to you that are full now, **for you shall hunger.**  
Woe to you that laugh now, **for you shall mourn and weep.**

Woe to you, when all people speak well of you,  
**for so their fathers did to the false prophets.**

But Jesus says to you, hear,  
**Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,**  
bless those who curse you, **pray for those who abuse you.**

God be gracious to us and bless us, and make your face shine upon us:

**Lord, have mercy on us.**

May your ways be known on the earth, your saving power among the nations:

**Christ, have mercy on us.**

You, Lord, have made known your salvation, and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:

**Spirit, have mercy on us.**

Teach us, O Lord, the way of your statutes;  
**and lead us in the path of your commandments.**

Keep our nation under your care;  
**and guide us in justice and truth.**

O Lord, deal graciously with your servants;  
**teach us discernment and knowledge.**

Let not the needy be forgotten;  
**nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Guide the meek in judgement;  
**and teach your ways to the gentle.**

Lord, remember your people;  
**whom you have purchased and redeemed of old.**