

Faith Bible Study Guide
For the Week of October 13, 2024 - Fifteenth SUNDAY IN PENTECOST:
Sermon Title: "Camels & Needles"



Be still [2 Minutes]: As you hear these Centering Words, let us greet each other, greet the Holy Spirit, and begin with 1 minute of silence, breathing in the breath of God and allow the group to open themselves to the Holy Spirit today:

CENTERING WORDS: Where do you go, Elusive One, when all hope fades? Be with us in our time of need and do not take your Holy Spirit from us.

OPENING PRAYER: Elusive One, be near us in our need. For we are poured out like water and our hearts melt like wax within us. You have watched over us since our birth as a mother watches over her children. Come to us swiftly and be with us now, for the darkness threatens and the light fades. Help us in our weakness and touch us with your mercy and your grace. Amen.

Be the Word Scripture Lesson: Mark 10:17-31

¹⁷ As Jesus continued down the road, a man ran up, knelt before him, and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to obtain eternal life?"

¹⁸ Jesus replied, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except the one God. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: *Don't commit murder. Don't commit adultery. Don't steal. Don't give false testimony. Don't cheat. Honor your father and mother.*"

²⁰ "Teacher," he responded, "I've kept all of these things since I was a boy."

²¹ Jesus looked at him carefully and loved him. He said, "You are lacking one thing. Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor. Then you will have treasure in heaven. And come, follow me."²² But the man was dismayed at this statement and went away saddened, because he had many possessions.

²³ Looking around, Jesus said to his disciples, "It will be very hard for the wealthy to enter God's kingdom!" ²⁴ His words startled the disciples, so Jesus told them again, "Children, it's difficult to enter God's kingdom! ²⁵ It's easier for a camel to squeeze through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter God's kingdom."

²⁶ They were shocked even more and said to each other, “Then who can be saved?”

²⁷ Jesus looked at them carefully and said, “It’s impossible with human beings, but not with God. All things are possible for God.”

²⁸ Peter said to him, “Look, we’ve left everything and followed you.”

²⁹ Jesus said, “I assure you that anyone who has left house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or farms because of me and because of the good news ³⁰ will receive one hundred times as much now in this life—houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and farms (with harassment)—and in the coming age, eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last. And many who are last will be first.”

L: The Word of God for all people

P: Thanks be to God

Be present: [Being mindful of others and sharing time]

1. Take a deep breath. *How is it with your soul?*
2. Is there a time in your life when something you thought was impossible was made possible? How did that affect you?
3. Do you think about eternal life a lot? Or is it something that still eludes you?

Be rooted: [Bible Study]

1. Who is asking about the gift of eternal life? What is his background? (Mark 10:22)
2. Who does the “saving” to give eternal life? What does he say exactly? (Mark 10:27.)
3. In verse 21, Jesus, “looking at him (the young man), loved him,” and then asked him to sell everything he owned, give the money to the poor, and then follow him.
 - Why do you think the text emphasizes Jesus loving the man?
 - What does it mean to look at someone with love and then challenge that person?
4. The Preaching Note for October 13 states: “*Perhaps one of the underlying messages in this text is the pull money can have in our lives and the need to resist and release that pull to use money as one of many resources that can further God’s work in the world. Money is a tool, not an end in itself.*”
 - What is Jesus saying in this passage about how we view treasure or money and following Jesus?
 - What is the “gravity” of stuff that pull you down in this life?

Be transformed: [Call to action]

“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” (Mark 10:29-30).

1. How does Jesus invite us to look at our lives and our church as part of an inheritance?
2. How does it help us to be good stewards and to think not of our needs today but for the needs of generations after us?

Prayers & Concerns

Joys & Celebrations:

- Celebration of marriage for Tyler and Michelle Matsumoto! (Congratulation to Val & Ray)
- Faith Babies:
 - The Pang's (Stanley & Edith) new grandson: Lucas Pang, born to Jeremy & Jodie and big brother, Noah
 - The Tondo's (Carol & Jerry) new grandson: Cayden Pang, born to Jessica & Derek Quan
 - The Inouye's (Wade & JuliAnn) new grandson Travis Inouye born, to Tracy & Danny Inouye and big sister, Ella
 - Rev. Keith & Viki Inouye's granddaughter: Rooney, born to Alison & Joe Boyd

For Healing and Wholeness:

- Christine Keim (vision issues)
- Oscar Philip Bland, Jr. (cousin of Dr. Lynn Atkins, missing for 4 months)

Life Transitions:

- Rev Harry Fujimoto's Transition to Japan (*relocated to Japan on Oct 2nd, and he will reside in an assisted living facility in Kanagawa, little south of Tokyo. His younger sister lives in a nearby city, and that was the main reason to choose that facility. His son and daughter helped move, and accompanied the trip to Japan. Rev Harry was a Nihongo minister when we were in Gardena, and he also served in Hawaii for some years. His wife Sumio, was a member of Sakura Chorus but passed away several years ago.*)
- Life transition for the Minei family, as empty-nesters Dave & Soyoung Minei sent both daughters (Kaila & Ashley) to college this year, and are transition to new jobs in a new city in Texas.

Absent from the Body, Present with the Lord:

- Continued Prayers for the Ito Family on the passing of Rev. Ito on Sept. 25th.
- James Tio Ichikawa- (Ralph Ichikawa's brother) - [Celebration of Life, November 2, 2024]
- Sam Kobayashi (in August)

Let us continue to Pray for our Beloved Community and World:

- People of the Holy Land and Ukraine and in all place where there is war and destruction
- Families rebuilding after natural disasters and man-made/created disasters
 - For the people, wildlife, and firefighters battling forest fires
- For our country during such a tense election year and for the leadership of our country and our churches

And Know that He is God:

Generous God, You have given us so many good things: food on our table and the people in our community whom we love. Help us be good stewards of everything in our possession, for we know everything belongs to You. Give us hearts willing to follow you and respond to the call You place on our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.