

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Psalm 90:12-17

*So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (v12)*

Hebrews 4:12-16

Mark 10:13-27

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty & ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind & reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments & receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Mark 10:13-27

<sup>13</sup>People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; & the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant & said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." <sup>16</sup>And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, & blessed them. <sup>17</sup>As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up & knelt before him, & asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>18</sup>Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. <sup>19</sup>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; Honor your father & mother.'" <sup>20</sup>He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." <sup>21</sup>Jesus, looking at him, loved him & said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, & give the money to the poor, & you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." <sup>22</sup>When he heard this, he was shocked & went away grieving, for he had many possessions. <sup>23</sup>Then Jesus looked around & said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" <sup>24</sup>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! <sup>25</sup>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." <sup>26</sup>They were greatly astounded & said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" <sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them & said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Compare & contrast the example of the child (vv13-16) & the rich man (vv17-25). How does Jesus' summary (vv26-27) emphasize & encourage child-like faith instead of adult achievement-oriented faith?
2. How does the Gospel lesson illustrate *Hebrews 4:12-16*? See *John 1:1-14, 6:60-68, 18:37-38*

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Read *Luke 12:13-21, 32-34, 19:1-10* (also *18:9-14*). None of these stories are comforting to middle-class Americans (& their "Protestant work ethic"). Name 10 places you are overinvested in money & material possession (& continue to invest!) & 10 places you are underinvested in the less fortunate (& continue resisting to invest) (*cf. vv21-22*).
4. Now look over *vv13-16*. How would a child-like faith trust God to continue providing abundantly for you even as you serve your neighbors? How would that same faith be conscientious, yet without worry, regarding salvation? See *Small Catechism: Creed* available [bookofconcord.org](http://bookofconcord.org)

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. The Prayer of Day asks that "we may follow the way of [God's] commandments." What are you doing in your congregation to learn this? How are showing & telling this to others? How is your behavior (things done & left undone) accountable to your brothers & sisters? How do your neighbors see this in your everyday life?
6. Established churches often have property & assets worth millions of dollars that they struggle to maintain, repair, & insure. In fact, hanging on to the building becomes the sole mission of many congregations. How would hearing Jesus love in *v21* revitalize faithfulness in their neighborhoods?

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21st Sunday after Pentecost

10.13.24

Series: It's Not About Me

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

*Your faithful life doesn't revolve around you*

My Money

*Our connections with others aren't compartmentalized from our finances*

-Notes-

**KEY VERSE:** Jesus, looking at him, loved him & said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, & give the money to the poor, & you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." (v21)

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**-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-**

**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**(Matthew 5:3)**

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