

## Reflection on Mark 10: 17-31

At this time we are hearing much about those on very low incomes losing the Covid benefit uplift which is being ended. We are hearing how taxes are being raised in a way that will affect the poor more than the rich. We have heard in the last few days about the Pandora papers which reveal that world leaders, celebrities and business tycoons have vast secret offshore accounts avoiding the paying of taxes. Inequality seems to be getting worse.

Jesus talks about the rich having to give their wealth to the poor if they want to have treasure in heaven. We need to see more justice and equity in the distribution of wealth and the lives of the poorest valued and made better. We are not all wealthy, but wealth is comparative and many who are regarded as poor in a nation like ours have untold wealth in the eyes of millions of poor people in the third world. We can and should give money to the relief of poverty. Poverty is comparative.

We all carry baggage that can prevent us from following Jesus, not just material possessions. It is good to ask ourselves the question, 'What am I carrying on the journey of life that I could leave behind to make the burden lighter and follow Jesus better on the journey to eternal life?' What must I do to inherit eternal life?

*Phil Baker*

**Codes for the Zoom worship at 5pm on the FIRST Sunday of each month**  
(7th November)

**Meeting ID:** 817 4532 4542

**Passcode:** 574847

**Telephone numbers:** 0203 481 5237,  
0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

**NEXT SUNDAY 17.10.2021 Trinity 20**

**SERVICES** 10.30am in Church

**READINGS** OT Isaiah 53: 4-12  
NT Hebrews 5: 1-10  
GOSPEL Mark 10: 35-45



### CONTACT US

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# St Thomas, Exeter

**Sunday 10th October 2021**

**Trinity 19**

**10.30am Mass in Church**

**[4pm Evensong in the Cathedral]**

We had a **good PCC meeting** on Wednesday night, resolving important matters like the hall boiler and a small card reader to help our fundraising. I wanted to draw your attention to another area: a likely **St Thomas Winter Market** on Saturday 20 November which is being organised by a keen person in the local community. It will probably take place in our churchyard, hall and even the Church itself, so this is a great opportunity to open our doors literally and figuratively. We also have the possibility of offering stalls, so if you are interested please see me soon – we are hoping for a couple of high quality offerings.

The feast day of **St Teresa of Avila** is 15 October. From her *Interior Castle*:

Self-knowledge is so important that, even if you were raised right up to the heavens, I should like you never to relax your cultivation of it; so long as we are on this earth, nothing matters more to us than humility.

*Fr David*



## Collect

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Amos 5: 6-7, 10-15

Seek the Lord and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore, because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

## Hebrews 4: 12-16

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weak-

nesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

## Mark 10: 17-31

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

## Post Communion

Holy and blessed God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit: may we honour you, not only with our lips but in lives dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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## NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is still advised by the Church of England. On most Sundays you can also be seated with some social distancing if you wish.

**Coffee and tea** will be offered after the 10.30am Mass. It will be served in the Hall. **There are gaps in the rota. Volunteers are urgently required. No helpers, no refreshments!**

**Knit and Natter October 2021** We shall meet as follows this month: Thursdays 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at 19 Maple Road. Details as usual from Jenny on 01392 498725

**House Group. Tuesdays at 7.30pm.** We are comparing other religious faiths. Zoom details from Ian Totterdell. Next **meeting on Tues 19th October**, new people very welcome!

**Community Larder** The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays** from 10am-12noon. The collecting point is in the Choir Vestry via the Tower door. Please continue to be generous.

**Thank you** for your generosity at the Harvest Festival in terms of the Community Larder and the toilet twinning. We raised enough money to twin all three of our toilets. Ian Totterdell.

**Pat, Julie-Ann and Joanne** would like to thank you all for your help and support. We have raised £800 to date for Robert's charities. Thank you especially to Rev Sarah for a "lovely" service and to Nigel, the organist.