***THE EASTER CODE***

**Lenten Worship Series – Week 5**

***Code Word:* Change**

**March 26, 2023**

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| **WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINE**SEach worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. Sermon manuscripts are included as a *sample* and not to be preached verbatim. |

**[*Project* “Week 5.QRCode”***(in Graphics file)* ***or below words on screen as people enter*]**

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| ***Code Word:* Change****In order to pray with confidence and hope, you need to know who you’re praying to.** |

**Call to Worship:**

One of the most amazing and comforting aspects of Jesus’s work is his humanity. He became what we are, so that we could find what we need in him. The humanity of Jesus is a significant part of what he offers us. He knows our weaknesses, he knows them deeply and personally, and he meets us in our weaknesses with a tender and understanding heart.

(*Journey to the Cross*, p. 161)

**[*Put scripture below on screen.*]**

**14**Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. **15**For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. **16**Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16, ESV)

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| **SB#243/HC#164 – Before the throne of God above** | TB-52 – same HC-164 | No HT CDHCD15-T14 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **SB#89/HC#161/SS#48 – O for a thousand tongues to sing (My Great Redeemer’s Praise)** | TB-59 – AzmonTB-75 – GrimsbyHC-161SS-48 | HTD3-T4 (4 vs.)No HT CDHCD15-T11 |
| **SB#139 – He came to give us life**  | TB-645 – same  | No HT CD |
| **SB#167 – Hail, Thou once despisèd Jesus**  | TB-370 – Hyfrydol HC-114 | HTD1-T14 (3 vs.)HCD10-T14 |
| **SB#223/HC#278 – I know he rescued my soul (My Redeemer Lives)** | TB-768 – sameHC-278 | No HT CDHCD26-T18 |
| **SB#241 – And can it be**  | TB-445 – Sagina  | HTD4-T13 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#242 – Arise, my soul, arise**  | TB-200 - Darwalls | HTD1-T7 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#379/HC#78/SS#44 – Lord, I lift Your name on high** | TB-948 – You came from Heaven to earth HC-78SS-44 | No HT CD HCD6-T18 |
| **SB#421/HC#301/SS#80 – Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power (Are You Washed)** | TB-557 – sameHC-301SS-80 | HTD7-T2 (3 vs.)HCD29-T11 |
| **SB#451/HC#71/SS#107 – Would you be free (Power in the Blood)** | TB-945 – Wonder-working powerHC-71SS-107 | No HT CDHCD6-T11  |
| **SB#466/HC#105/SS#32 – I stand amazed in the presence (How Marvelous)** | TB-769 – My Savior’s loveHC-105SS-32 | HTD10-T8 (4 vs.)HCD9-T15 |
| **HC#2 – Everlasting Hope**  | HC-2 | HCD1A-T12 |
| **SB#830/HC#189/SS#79 – Come, Thou fount of every blessing**  | TB-374 – NettletonHC-189SS-79 | No HT CDHCD17-T19 |
| **HC#248 – Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)** | HC-248 | HCD23-T18 |
| **HC#294 – Glorious Day** | HC-294 | HCD28-T14 |

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| **Drama – Last Will** |

***The Rich and the Kingdom of God***

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 19:16-30**

[Scripture can be read by one person, split up into a responsive reading, or as a “readers’ theater using *The Voice* version - <https://www.biblegateway.com/> ]

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| **SB#456 – Dear Lord and Father of mankind** | TB-105 – Repton | HTD8-T13 (3 vs.) |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **SB#178/SS#95 – Jesus, keep me near the cross**  | TB-238 – Near the crossSS-95TB-237 – Healing Stream | HTD2-T5 (3 vs.)HTD5-T8 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#243/HC#164 – Before the throne of God above**  | TB-52 – same HC-164 | No HT CDHCD15-T14 |
| **SB#453/SS#78 – Amazing grace!****HC#248 – Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)** | TB-57 – sameSS-78HC-248 | HTD3-T2 (4 vs.) HCD23-T18 |
| **SB#589 – I heard a voice so gently calling** | TB-691 – I’ll follow Thee | No HT CD |
| **SB#613 – O Jesus, I have promised** | TB-213 – AureliaHC-286  | HTD3-T3 (3 vs.)HCD27-T16 |
| **SB#645/HC#32/SS#150 – He leadeth me!** | TB-14 – sameHC-32SS-150 | HTD7-T9 (3 vs.)HCD2B-T12 |
| **SB#648 – I would be true** | TB-494 – Pilgrims  | HTD5-T16 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#649/HC#33 – If crosses come (I’ll Not Turn Back)** | TB-490 – sameHC-33 | No HT CDHCD2B-T13 |
| **SB#653 – Jesus calls us; o’er the tumult** | TB-321 – Cross of JesusTB-326 – Galilee  | No HT CDNo HT CD |
| **SB#661 – Mine to rise when Thou dost call me** | TB-334 – I will follow Thee, my SaviorTB-349 – Stainer  | No HT CDNo HT CD |
| **SB#716 – Let me love Thee, Thou art claiming** | TB-372 – Let me love TheeTB-361 – Blaenwern (no chorus) | No HT CDHTD5-T3 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#756 – He walks with God** | TB-465 – Ellers  | HTD9-T2 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#775 – Master, speak: Thy servant heareth** | TB-392 – Ottawa | HTD9-T14 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#872 – Jesus, I my cross have taken** | TB-334 – I will follow Thee, my SaviorTB-360 – Bethany  | No HT CDHTD11-T1 (4 vs.) |

**Leader:** **28**I tell you this. When *creation is consummated and* all things are renewed, when the Son of Man sits on His throne in glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on thrones. There will be twelve thrones, and you will sit and judge the twelve tribes of Israel. **29**You who have left your house and your fields, or your brothers and sisters, or your father and mother, or even your children in order to follow Me, *at that time when all is renewed, you will receive so much more*: you will receive 100 times what you gave up. You will inherit eternal life.

(Matthew 19:16-20, The Voice)

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| **HC#128 – My Tribute**  | HC-128 | HCD11-T18 |

**Prayer**

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| **Children’s Moment – Change**  |

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| ***Code Word:* Multiply****“Go into all the world and make disciples.” - Matthew 28:19** |
| **DESCRIPTION:** During the Lenten season we will have an opportunity to take 6 weeks to intentionally fast and pray for the salvation of others. The goal and focus on ‘Multiply’ is to share our faith and to develop an *urgency of salvation* mindset for those who do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ; and to invite congregants to fast/pray for salvation of others. It would be wonderful to celebrate on Easter Sunday the people who have accepted Jesus as their Savior! |
| **SUPPLIES NEEDED:** a prayer box on the holiness table (clear case works best); cross which fits inside the box; prayer cards printed on card stock (on three different colors – *see samples in Graphics file*); pens. |
| **VISUAL/INTERACTIVE PRAYER:** During the pastoral prayer portion each Sunday, the meeting leader will invite people to participate in 3 different ways, either writing the name of: 1) **someone for whom you are praying for salvation** (white card)2) **someone to whom you have witnessed this past week** (green card)3) **someone who has accepted Jesus as their Savior** (red card)and placing that card in the prayer box on the holiness table. |
| * Explain the evangelism “visual”
* “Multiply” – fill out cards/place in box on holiness table
* Prayer time as people put cards in box
* Pastoral Prayer
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**Announcements and Offering**

**Testimony of Faith – [Choose someone from the congregation who can testify on this theme.]**

**Message – *Code Word:* Change**

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| **HC#214 – Holy Spirit**  | HC-214 | HCD20-T14 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **SB#178/SS#95 – Jesus, keep me near the cross**  | TB-238 – Near the crossSS-95TB-237 – Healing Stream | HTD2-T5 (3 vs.)HTD5-T8 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#259 – Like to a lamb who from the fold has strayed**  | TB-477 – Hammond | HTD12-T7 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#589 – I heard a voice so gently calling** | TB-691 – I’ll follow Thee | No HT CD |
| **SB#613 – O Jesus, I have promised** | TB-213 – AureliaHC-286  | HTD3-T3 (3 vs.)HCD27-T16 |
| **SB#649/HC#33 – If crosses come (I’ll Not Turn Back)** | TB-490 – sameHC-33 | No HT CDHCD2B-T13 |
| **SB#756 – He walks with God who speaks to God in prayer** | TB-465 – Ellers  | HTD9-T2 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#197/HC#235 – Say, are you weary (I Know a Fount)** | TB-489 – sameHC-235 | HTD8-T8 (3 vs.)HCD22-T15 |
| **SB#222 – He is Lord** | TB-649 – same  | No HT CD |
| **SB#409/HC#77/SS#136 – Change my heart, O God** | TB-584 – sameHC-7SS-136 | No HT CDHCD6-T17 |
| **SB#439/HC#139 – There is a message** | TB-879 – sameHC-139 | No HT CDHCD12-T19 |
| **SB#376/HC#219 – King of kings, majesty**  | TB-722 – sameHC-219 | No HT CDHCD20-T19 |
| **HC#123/SS#55 – Shine on Us** | HC-123SS-55 | HCD11-T13 |
| **HC#160/SS#125 – I Surrender** | HC-160SS-125 | HCD14-T20 |
| **HC#205 – Closer Still**  | HC-205 | HCD19-T15 |
| **SB#699/HC#207/SS#88 – Every promise we can make (Grace Alone)** | TB-640 – sameHC-207SS-88 | No HT CDHCD19-T17 |
| **HC#236 – Lord, I Need You** | HC-236 | HCD22-T16 |

**Benediction:**

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

([Hebrews 13:20-21](http://www.christianity.com/bible/search/?ver=niv&q=hebrews+13%3a20-21), NIV)

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| **HC#309 – Go in Peace, Go in Love** | HC-309 | HCD29-T19 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **SB#861/HC#149/SS#41 – In Christ alone** | TB-132 – same HC-149SS-41 | No HT CDHCD13-T19 |
| **SB#89/HC#161/SS#48 – O for a thousand tongues to sing (My Great Redeemer’s Praise)** | TB-59 – AzmonTB-75 – GrimsbyHC-161SS-48 | HTD3-T4 (4 vs.)No HT CDHCD15-T11 |
| **HC#128 – My Tribute**  | HC-128 | HCD11-T18 |
| **HC#198 – In Jesus’ Name**  | HC-198 | HCD18-T18 |
| **SB#358/HC#241/SS#30 – Crown Him with many crowns** | TB-162 – Diademata HC-241SS-30 | HTD1-T8 (4 vs.)HCD23-T11 |
| **SB#1031/HC#283 – Lord, if Your presence** | TB-740 – same HC-283 | No HT CDHCD27-T13 |
| **SB#241 – And can it be** | TB-445 – Sagina  | HTD4-T13 (4 vs.) |
| **Lent 2023 – Week 5** |
| **DRAMA****Last Will****By Martyn Scott Thomas**© Copyright 2022 by Martyn Scott Thomas. All rights reserved. Used by permission. |
| **Topic:** | Sacrifice |
| **Scripture:** | Matthew 19:16-30 |
| **Synopsis:** | A rich man contemplates his wealth. |
| **Characters:** | William Burns – a very rich manPreston Harrington – his attorney |
| **Props/Costumes:** | Business dress. A desk, two chairs, a computer, and file folders. |
| **Setting:** | Preston’s office. |
| **Running time:** | 5 minutes |

[*Preston is seated behind his desk working on his computer.*]

**William:** [*enters*] I got your message and thought that this would probably be better to handle with an in-person conversation.

**Preston:** [*looking up*] Ah, Will. Please come in and have a seat. I agree. We need to talk this out.

**William:** [*sits*] Before we start, please know that no matter what you say, Preston, you won’t change my mind.

**Preston:** I hope that’s not the case. I wonder if you realize what you’re doing. I’m hoping this is due to some sort of episode or temporary delusion.

**William:** I know exactly what I’m doing. There is no delusion, temporary or otherwise.

**Preston:** But you’re instructing me to [*pauses*] ‘dismantle’ your fortune.

**William:** That’s an interesting choice of words. [*directly*] Preston, I want you to give it all away.

**Preston:** [*pointing to computer*] But this is everything.

**William:** [*confirming*] Every last penny.

**Preston:** But why?

**William:** Let’s just say I’m feeling charitable.

**Preston:** But this goes far beyond charity. You’ll be left with only the clothes on your back.

**William:** Don’t worry. You’ll get your usual fees for service.

**Preston:** I’m not worried about me. I’m worried about you. How will you live?

**William:** I have a plan.

**Preston:** It must be a pretty good plan to think you can live with no finances.

**William:** What if I told you I can achieve eternal life?

**Preston:** You want to live forever?

**William:** Yes.

**Preston:** And you can accomplish that by giving away all your money?

**William:** Yes.

**Preston:** I think I see a flaw in your plan. If you give away everything, how can you live day to day, let alone forever?

**William:** You’re missing the point.

**Preston:** I’m not missing a thing. Common sense says you need money to live. It buys things like food and clothes and a place to live. Without it you’re hungry, naked, and homeless. Not the best way to go through life – forever.

**William:** But he said it was the only way.

**Preston:** Wait. Who said that? I knew someone was trying to rip you off. It probably started as some internet scam.

**William:** It’s nothing like that. [*hesitantly*] I sought him out.

**Preston:** [*pressing*] Him, who?

**William:** Jesus.

**Preston:** [*silent pause*] William. How long have we known each other?

**William:** A lifetime.

**Preston:** And how many times have I steered you wrong?

**William:** Does college count?

**Preston:** I’m talking professionally.

**William:** Never.

**Preston:** Then listen when I tell you. This Jesus is very charismatic and influential. He pulls people in with his charms and tells them things they want to hear. But ask yourself, where does he live? Where does he get his money? [*emphasizing*] Do the authorities trust him?

**William:** I can’t answer that. All I can tell you is that I’ve never heard anybody speak like him. He teaches with authority and passion.

**Preston:** And where has he studied to gain such authority?

**William:** [*unsure*] I’ve never really thought about that. But the way he talks about God and Heaven – it’s like he knows about it first-hand. I mean, he really knows about it.

**Preston:** All part of the illusion. He’s a con man. Plain and simple.

**William:** But he said . . .

**Preston:** That you could have eternal life if you sold everything? He’s just after your money. If you want eternal life, follow the commandments.

**William:** I’ve kept them all. But he says that it’s not enough. He says I need to give all my money away.

**Preston:** To him I suppose.

**William:** No, to the poor. Preston, I’m telling you, he seems like he really cares about me.

**Preston:** The good ones always do. That’s how they’re able to fool so many people. It’s a good thing you came to talk to me.

**William:** I guess you’re right.

**Preston:** You know, you can still be charitable without giving away everything.

**William:** I can?

**Preston:** Yes. I’ll make your yearly donation to the synagogue.

**William:** How much?

**Preston:** Trust me, to them it will seem very generous. To you, just a drop in the bucket.

**William:** Thank you, Preston. You really are a good friend.

**Preston:** Oh, and one more thing – stay away from this Jesus. He’s nothing but trouble.

**William:** If you say so.

**Preston:** I have a feeling you’ll remember this decision for the rest of your life.

[*Blackout*]

***THE EASTER CODE***

**Children’s Moment – Week 5**

***Code Word:* Change**

**March 26, 2023**

**by Katie Laidlaw**

**Synopsis:** The Code Word series focuses on 7 topics, from the perspective of scientists working in “The Code Lab” in order to find the secret ingredients to living out the power of the resurrection.

**Costume:** lab coat, goggles/glasses, gloves, mustache

**Set-up/Staging:** Small table or rolling cart with props.

**Props:** 2-liter bottle, water, vegetable oil, food coloring, 2 Alka Seltzer tablets

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| **Week 5 – Change**  |

**[*Invite children to come to the front, either having them stand or sit for the lesson.*** (I personally recommend having the children stand, as this helps keep them attentive, engaged, and involved in the lesson—especially with the dynamic of the congregation “watching them.” In this more public/formal setting, sitting provides a more relaxed/informal mindset, allowing the children to disengage and merely be present in the moment.)**]**

**Script:**

Come on over! You are going to love what we have discovered in The Code Lab today!

While Jesus was on earth, a man approached Jesus and asked what he needed to do to get into Heaven. Jesus told the man he needed to follow these commandments: “‘Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not bear a false witness. 19Honor your father and mother.’And ‘love your neighbor as you love yourself.’” (Matthew 19:18-19, NIRV)

The man responded to Jesus, saying he had kept all of these commandments, but wanted to know what else he could do.

Jesus told him: “Go and sell everything you have. Give the money to those who are poor. You will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me.” (Matthew 19:21, NIRV)

This man was very rich, and loved all of his riches. He did not want to sacrifice his riches. Jesus took this opportunity to talk to His disciples about the importance of sacrifice.

What is sacrifice? [*Allow children to respond*]

Absolutely! Sacrifice is a way deep love can be shown. The greatest example of sacrifice is Jesus dying on the cross for us. We know Jesus loves us because of the great sacrifice He made – the sacrifice of His own life.

What are some sacrifices we can make to show love to others? Hint: Jesus told a few things to the man I mentioned earlier. [*Allow children to respond*]

Watch this! This is what happens within our hearts when we sacrifice for others:

* *Take the 2-liter bottle and fill it with water ¼ of the way full.*
* *Add vegetable oil until nearly full.*
* *Add a few drops of food coloring.*
* *Break Alka Seltzer tablets in half and drop into the bottle.*
* *Close lid and swish it around.*

When we show God’s love to others, especially through sacrifice, we can allow people who might be sad, afraid, angry, or hopeless to experience joy, peace, calmness, and hope. We can show others who Jesus is through our words and actions. When we do this, we will see a change; not only in the people around us, but in our world as well. Our world can become something amazing and beautiful, just like this!

I hope you can find ways to show God’s love this week!

[*Pray.*]

**Main Points:**

* Sacrifice is a way deep love can be shown.
* We know Jesus loves us because of the great sacrifice He made – the sacrifice of His own life.
* When we show God’s love to others, especially through sacrifice, we can allow people who might be sad, afraid, angry, or hopeless to experience joy, peace, calmness, and hope.
* When we make sacrifices and show love, we will see a change; not only in the people around us, but in our world as well. Our world can become something amazing and beautiful!

**Questions:**

* What is sacrifice?
* What are some sacrifices we can make to show love to others?

***THE EASTER CODE***

**Lenten Sermon – Week 5**

***Code Word:* Change**

**March 26, 2023**

**By Major Peter Mount**

**TITLE: *Code Word:* Change**

**THEME: The Rich Young Man**

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 19:16-30**

**INTRODUCTION**

[For the introduction find a picture of yourself from when you were young to illustrate how you have changed over the years. Display it on the screen or put a copy in your bulletin for people to refer to*.*]

This morning, I would like to begin by showing you an old picture of someone who has a changed a little since this picture was taken *(show the picture).* That is me when I was a baby/child.

In The Salvation Army you would think that we’d be used to adapting and change, but it is very seldom easy and even less often desired. However, change is important!

In today’s message we are looking at the *code word:* Change. Not everyone’s favorite subject but one that is important for our lives as human beings.

[One of the most dramatic changes in my own life came when I went from a self-doubting person who did not believe in Jesus, to giving my life to Him and believing in Him and knowing in my heart that I am enough in Christ.] That is my testimony!

This morning, we are going to do something a little different. I want you to take the next few minutes, get into groups of 2’s or 3’s, and share a change that has happened in your life. Tell about the difference it has made. It can be about Jesus or not, but take a few minutes to share. [*Allow time for people to move and share*]

**POINT(S)**

Turn with me to Matthew 19:16-30, the account of Jesus and the rich young man. The context of this scripture comes just after Jesus encourages little children to come to Him and for others to not hinder them.

From this, we read the account of the rich young man who knows Jesus as a teacher asks the question in verse 16, *“What good thing must I do to get eternal life?”*

This question is an apt question as Jesus has just talked about Heaven belonging to children (verse 14), so he wants to know how he too can gain Heaven.

Look at Jesus’ response **[read verses 17-19].**

Jesus asks the question: Have you fulfilled the law and kept the commandments? If not, then this is what you must change.

None of us love rules and regulations. (If you do not agree, take note of your speed when driving compared to the posted speed limits. I am guessing that most of us fudge the lines on this one!)

For the rich young man however, we read in verse 20, that he has kept the law in its entirety but still has the desire for Heaven and to do what is right in the eyes of the teacher, Jesus.

**[Read verse 20]**

Our first challenge today is that of desire. Do you desire to be like Jesus? Many of us know and sing the chorus in our Salvation Army Song Book (#328):

 To be like Jesus!

 This hope possesses me,

 In every thought and deed,

 This is my aim, my creed.

 To be like Jesus!

 This hope possesses me,

 His Spirit helping me,

 Like Him I’ll be.

*- John Gowans*

But do you have that desire? Does it “possess you” to change to be like Jesus? For the rich young man, he wanted to know the secret to entering the kingdom of Heaven, so he asked again in verse 20: *“What do I still lack?”*

Let’s read Jesus’ reply **[read verses 21-22].**

Now let me stop here just say that there is nothing wrong with having wealth and money. The issue here is: who or what is your God? If God is not your God, then you are breaking the first commandment (“You shall have no other gods before the one true God”).

Not only that, but Jesus tells us what the greatest commandment is: **[Read Matthew 22:36-37]**

What change was needed in this man’s life? He placed more importance on wealth than on serving and loving God with his whole heart, mind, soul and strength.

The second challenge today is who or what is your God? Is the King and Creator of the universe your God, or something created? (By created, I mean material—nicer cars, better jobs, bigger house—or relational—yes, that includes spouse, parents, kids and even grandkids.) Who or what are you worshipping? If you are not sure, then look at how you spend your time, talents and treasure—that will tell you what you worship!

If what you worship is not the God of the Bible—the Son of the living of God—then that needs to change soon for you to live in freedom and grace!

We then come to this fascinating illustration that Jesus uses in Matthew 19:23-24 **[Read].**

[*Show picture of “eye of the needle” gate in the wall of Jerusalem.*]



<https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/2021/08/16/the-eye-of-a-needle/>

The “eye of the needle” refers to a gate in the wall of Jerusalem. During the day, there was a large gate that was open through which a camel could easily pass. But at night, the larger gate was closed and there was a smaller opening in the center of the gate that allowed people to pass through. A camel, however, could not pass through that smaller opening unless it got down on its knees, had its load removed from its back, and then crawled through.

For us to enter the Kingdom of Heaven and eternal life with Jesus, we must give Him our burdens, receive His forgiveness and grace, and kneel before God our Creator in worship.

**CHALLENGE**

Today you may have some really heavy burdens – **verse 26 is for you**:

 *“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”*

You may know you need to change, and maybe have even tried before – **verse 26 is for you**:

 *“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”*

You may need the desire to change today – **verse 26 is for you**:

 *“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”*

Know that God is here, and that with Him all things are possible! Come and kneel; seek Him for what you need this day!