

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Mark 10: 17-31

17. And when he was gone forth into the way, the one which was straight and without curves or bends, there came one running with his cloak raised up above his knees and with his sandals firmly tied, and kneeled to him, and a bit breathlessly asked him, Good Master, I fancy not the smoke of hell nor demons poking their spears at my tender parts. What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?
18. And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? And the man did look questioningly at him and replied, Because thou art Good. And Jesus shook his head and said, There is none good but one, that is, God.
19. And taking his head in his hands (that is, the man's head in his hands and not his own head in his hands) he looked directly into his eyes and said, Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother, and covet not thy neighbour's ass.
20. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth, especially the one about the ass.
21. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, for he was fair to gaze upon and had fine form and well-toned muscles, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.
22. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for not only hath he great possessions, but the bit about the cross disquieteth him, and he did not understand.
23. And Jesus looked round about, and seeing his disciples wondering saith unto them, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God, even if they rejecteth their neighbour's livestock!
24. And the disciples were astonished at his words, for they were familiar with the ways of the country round about Galilee and how the sheep were valued by many. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, forget the bit about the neighbour's ass. How hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!
25. And the disciples did nod sagely and many did mentally draw up a tally of their savings. And he said unto them, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.
26. And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, That would truly be a sign worthy of the Messiah. We could make a fortune from selling tickets to that sort of show. But Thomas said, Brothers, his words tell us that wealth is an hindrance to salvation. Look ye to your balances. And they looked askance, especially Matthew who had many and varied investments, and Judas did nervously finger the coins in the common purse, and Peter spoke up and asked, Who then can be saved?
27. And Jesus, looking upon them, saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible, for God is omnipotent and omnipresent. And James did wonder if God was also omnivorous for he had some cattle at home and his neighbour had a mighty ass, but he kept silent.
28. Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. My mother-in-law has thankfully stayed in the house, and my wife I will not mention either here or elsewhere.

29. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, or even his neighbour's ass, for my sake, and the gospel's,
30. But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, yea and even sheep and cattle and all manner of livestock, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.
31. But many that are first shall be last; and the last first. And Judas (yes, that one) did wonder how that might affect ticket sales and reserved seats, but he was ignored by all, and his heart was darkened.