

Thought for the day – Thursday 10th June 2021

By Rev John Ohen.

Riches or wealth is it good or bad?

Mark 10: 25 -30.

Last Wednesday we heard about a working experience in a Jewish establishment.

During Jesus' time, in a traditional Jewish home, it was thought that riches were a sign of God's blessing and gave us more opportunity to do good wherever we are. However, Jesus is teaching us that this can be a hindrance to entering God's kingdom. Peter asked about himself and other disciples, who had not been rich, who gave up everything to follow Jesus. They gave up family and possession, and it is equally for anyone to give up what is familiar and dear and to set out into the unknown.

Jesus told his disciples that they would surely be rewarded, as would anyone who put him before their family and possession, they would be rewarded with eternal life. Being a Christian does not mean that we sacrifice happiness in this life in the hope that there would be a better life after death. However, if we truly follow Christ in this life, we will be also happier in this life. Because the blessings Christ will give us, will be greater than any worldly pleasures. This does not mean that Jesus is promising us material rewards or the so called "prosperity gospel". This is totally contrary to Jesus' emphasis on the danger of riches and the blessing of poverty. What Jesus is promising us is spiritual, and not material things. Jesus is not saying that his followers would avoid suffering or hardship. Instead, Christ is telling us that being his disciples will bring suffering, and that we must take up our cross and follow him and his promise is that he will be with us always, and this will bring us peace and joy. By being faithful to Christ we will always be sustained by the comfort of his love and the hope of eternal life.

Bible passage: Mark 10: 25 – 30.

Prayer:

Forgive us Lord for putting others before you, draw us closer to you always and sustain us with your joy and peace in this world and the next. Amen.