**SOME KEY THEMES OF JESUS’ MESSAGE PART TWO**

This resource from Saint Mary’s Press presents some of the key themes to be found within Jesus’ message. Spend the next days praying with the key scripture passages connected to each theme and reflecting on how you are living this theme out in your life today.

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| **THE CALL TO BEFRIEND THOSE WHOM SOCIETY LOOKS DOWN UPON**  *Jesus made himself the friend of outcasts (Matthew 11:19) and did not avoid their company (Mark 2:16).*  **Matthew 11: 19** The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, ‘Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is vindicated by her works.”  **Mark 2: 16 – 17** Some scribes who were Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors and said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus heard this and said to them [that], “Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.” |
| **THE CALL TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER, HUMBLY AND UNSELFISHLY**  *Jesus gave us an example when he washed the feet of his disciples (John 13: 4 – 17). “But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”*  **Luke 14: 12 – 14** Then he said to the host who invited him, “When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”  **John 13: 4 – 17** Jesus rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Master, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus answered and said to him, “What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later.”  Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me.” Simon Peter said to him, “Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well.” Jesus said to him, “Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over; so, you are clean, but not all.” For he knew who would betray him; for this reason, he said, “Not all of you are clean.”  So, when he had washed their feet [and] put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, “Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do. Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it. |
| **THE CALL TO SERVE THE POOR**  *Jesus singled the poor in the Beatitudes, insisting that the Reign of God will be theirs (Luke 6:20), as did Mary in her Magnificat: :He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.” (Luke 1: 52 – 53). Jesus’ parable of Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16: 19 – 31) is particularly compelling. Indeed, Pope John Paul II frequently cites it in summoning the church to the service of the poor and powerless.*  **Luke 1: 52 – 53** He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things; and sent the rich away empty.  **Luke 6: 20** And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.  **Luke 16: 19 – 31** “There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man’s table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores. When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he cried out, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.’ Abraham replied, ‘My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.’ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too come to this place of torment.’ But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.’ He said, ‘Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ Then Abraham said, ‘If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.’” |
| **THE CALL TO BEWARE OF RICHES AND THE ATTACHMENT TO POSSESSIONS**  *Jesus said it would be easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter into the Kingdom of God (Mark 10:25) He said that those who would be his disciples, should be ready to sell all that they have and give it to the poor. (Mark 10:21)*  **Matthew 6: 24** No one can serve two masters. They will either hate one and love the other; or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.  Mark 10: 17 – 31 As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus answered him, “Why do you call me good?[\*](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/mark/10#49010018-1) No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother.’” He replied and said to him, “Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, “You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to [the] poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” The disciples were amazed at his words. So, Jesus again said to them in reply, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!  It is easier for a camel to pass through [the] eye of [a] needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were exceedingly astonished and said among themselves, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God.” Peter began to say to him, “We have given up everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come.  But many that are first will be last, and [the] last will be first.” |
| **THE CALL TO ALWAYS BE JUST IN OUR DEALINGS WITH OTHERS**  *Jesus attacked the scribes and Pharisees for straining at gnats and swallowing camels and for neglecting the weightier matters of law, including justice first (Matthew 23:23)*  **Matthew 23: 23 – 24** “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You pay tithes of mint and dill and cummin and have neglected the weightier things of the law: judgment and mercy and fidelity. [But] these you should have done, without neglecting the others. Blind guides, who strain out the gnat and swallow the camel!  **Luke 11: 42** Woe to you Pharisees! You pay tithes of mint and of rue and of every garden herb, but you pay no attention to judgment and to love for God. These you should have done, without overlooking the others. |
| **THE CALL TO PRAY ALWAYS AND WITH COMPLETE TRUST IN GOD**  *Jesus said that we should pray in complete confidence in God. “Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.” (Matthew 7”7)*  **Matthew 7: 7 – 11** “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which one of you would hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf of bread, or a snake when he asks for a fish? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him.  **Luke 11: 2- 4** Jesus said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name,  your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test.” |