

## Reader 1 From the Gospel according to St Matthew

*Mt. 19. 23-end*

Then Jesus said to his disciples,

**Reader 2** 'Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, 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.'

**Reader 1** When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said,

**Reader 3** 'Then who can be saved?'

**Reader 2** 'For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.'

**Reader 1** Then Peter said in reply,

**Reader 3** 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?'

**Reader 2** 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

## Reflection & Prayer

*[from Psalming the New Testament]*

**Reader 1** The woman in her poverty put in everything she had

**Reader 2** All she had to live on

**Reader 3** Bring me, God, to cheerfulness in giving

**Reader 1** Sharing abundantly in every good work

**Reader 2** You have given me your spirit and anointed me

**Reader 3** To bring good news to the poor

**Reader 1** The poor we will always have with us

**Reader 2** They are blessed, for the kingdom is theirs

**Reader 3** You look on me, Jesus, with deep love

**Reader 1** Make total my following of you

**Reader 2** Make me ready, O God, to share my resources

**Reader 3** Spiritual blessings and material things

**Reader 1** Let me not worry about my life and its needs

**Reader 2** But rather strive first for the kingdom

**Reader 3** Put me on guard against all kinds of greed

**Reader 1** From abundance of possessions unclutter me

**Reader 2** You have chosen me, God, as an heir to the kingdom

**Reader 3** Bring me to Gospel poverty and to riches in faith

**Reader 1** May your love abide in my heart, I pray

**Reader 2** As I love in truth and action

## The Lord's Prayer and Blessing