

# The Shepherd's Voice

October 9, 2012

By Fr. Joe Rees

## “Leaving It All Behind”

“And Jesus said to His disciples, “How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!” Mark 10: 23.

This Sunday we will celebrate in one service at 9:00am and hear this Word from the Lord. Jesus had a lot to say about wealth and being a good steward. There is nothing wrong with wealth and it seems Jesus would bless those who using their talent wisely would bring ten times that amount for use to expand the Kingdom of God, i.e. Parable of the Talents. The key is to use the wealth for His Kingdom. Jesus was very firm with those who would hoard or bury their wealth in order to keep it. Here Jesus is clearly saying throughout the passage that says, “How hard it will be for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.”(vs. 25) Jesus tells this rich man to sell all that he has and give it to the poor. The man went away sorrowful. He couldn't respond to Jesus. I'm hoping all of us would never be walking away from Jesus and the Kingdom of God because we were sorry to make that decision to garner wealth instead of eternal life with Him!

Someday, we will have to leave it all behind. All that material wealth in cash, bonds, stocks, CD's, money market investments, real estate, pensions, social security payments, and personal belongings will not be taken with us. All so often wealth doesn't even benefit the following generation. They argue and fight over their share. It becomes a curse not a blessing. It's because wealth is not turned over to God's hands. Here's the thing...you can't take it with you!

What Jesus is talking about here is like this story... ‘A man had a prized collection of wrist watches that were worth well over a million dollars since they were antiques and had belonged to

famous people. He had a serious illness and began to make plans with his estate. But he kept his watches near him in a large locked bag, between his legs under the covers of his sick bed. He felt the heart attack coming and reached for his bag clenching it with his fists. Suddenly he was at the gate of heaven and St. Peter said he had to go through that narrow part that the light showed was just a slit. He grabbed his bag of watches and tried to slide through that narrow opening. That bag though was just too big and made it impossible to get through. He was determined to keep his possessions. So he tried taking the watches out of the bag and putting them all up and down his arms and legs! Now he tried to enter again and this time the light became intense and made the metal watches so hot that he could not bear it. “All right”, he said, “I'll just pick one of the watches and wear it for eternity to remind myself of all I did to gain such wealth and have so many wonderful possessions!” But, then the Lord Jesus came by and said, “Let me see your watch. Hand it to me. I want to see what time you have.” The man sheepishly took of his watch and said, “You know it's very valuable.” And Jesus answered, “Which is more valuable to you...time kept on this watch that will stop on earth because it has no one to wind it, or, the time I will give you in eternity that will never have to be paid for or cared for or earned. It's your choice. Look into that light in the narrow gate.” The man did. And he saw his loved ones saying...”Leave it behind! You don't need that here!! Don't be a fool!!!” And the man looked one last time at his watch of rapidly diminishing worth, slipped it off his wrist and said to Jesus, “I'm sorry, please forgive me, I should not have valued this more than you or your Kingdom.” Jesus loved him and said, “Now you are ready, enter through that narrow gate and enjoy the time I will give you forever!” ‘

On what thing do you place your greatest value? Do you think it will stand up to the light of Christ, or be able to be brought into heaven?? Release it now, while you have the chance, before that day comes standing before the Lord. Since we know now, we won't have any excuses then. Leave those prized possessions or wealth behind. Evaluate what you can give to the Lord now, so He doesn't have to ask you to put it into His hands at the moment of death.

Being a good steward is vital in our relationship with Jesus. He asks for you to willingly give to His glory in His Church on earth and His Kingdom forever. The church is the only instrument He has

**Sunday Servers this week...**

<b>October 14, 2012</b>		<b>9:00 a.m. Service</b>
First Reader	Amos 5:6-15	Stephen Painter
Psalm Reader	Psalm 90	Randy Stewart
Second Reader	Hebrews 3:1-6	Trish Snider
Intercessors		Chris Kilby
Lay Euch. Ministers		KC Winward, Richard Rieder
Acolytes		Chris K (C); Kalani C (T1); Damon W (T2)
Welcomers		Maureen Green, Chris Corey, Anna Teixeira
Ushers		Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, Jackie Lansing, David Green
Announcer		Chris Corey
Healing Ministers		Ann & JR Fox, Joy Rosendale, Jane Rost
Counters		Cline Handy & Michael Murphy

to continue His presence on earth to train up the future generations of followers of Jesus. Be in prayer about the way you might support your church as you receive your pledge card this week. And, remember to put the church in your wills to leave a portion of your estate to God's glory.

May the Lord bless us as we offer our tithes and time and talents for His Kingdom.

Love in Christ,  
Fr. Joe

**It's Kairos Cookie Time!**  
 On **October 21, 2012** we will collect cookies for this Prison Ministry. The idea of this ministry is "come for the cookies, stay for the message".  
 It's not too early to start baking cookies and put them in your freezer. Please put one to two dozen cookies per clear ziplock bag. No paper plates inside and no raisins. The cookies will be refused if either of these are present.  
 Call Randy Stewart for more information.

**Shoebox Ministry**  
**Operation Christmas Child**  
 The shoeboxes will be out on Sunday with a list of possible items to fill the boxes. Please pick up one or two of these boxes and help make Christmas special for a boy or girl who may not receive anything for Christmas without your help.

**Soaking Prayer**  
 Wed. Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**Scentsy Party at Grace -Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>**  
 Join Alicia Wherry to see all the Scentsy products. Alicia is donating all of her profit from the sales to the Children's Ministries.

**November 12, 2012**  
**OSL Healing Conference**  
 at Grace with Mike Endicott  
 See fliers for more information.

**Tuesday Evenings at Grace**  
**It's the place to be!**  
 This evening at 6:30 there will be a fellowship potluck dinner followed by --- Fellowship! Come and just enjoy the company of fellow Grace Parishioners in a relaxing of food and fun.

## Sunday at Grace

**9:00 a.m. – One Service**  
**10:30 p.m. Fellowship Time**  
**Potato Bar. We'll provide the potatoes, you provide your favorite baked potato topping to share.**

OSL prayer training  
for Mike Endicott  
healing conference  
6:30 October 16th.

## Readings for Sunday

Amos 5:6-15  
Psalm 90  
Hebrews 3:1-6  
Mark 10:35-45

We are using the English Standard Version of the Bible and the Lectionary from the Book of Common Prayer (Year B)

### This Week at Grace –Oct. 9-Oct. 16

#### Tues. October 9

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study – Revelation  
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis  
6:30 p.m. Fellowship Potluck & Fellowship

#### Wed October 10,

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer  
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Youth Group  
7:00 p.m. Soaking Prayer Service  
Fr. Joe leaving for birth of grandson in Maine

#### Thurs. October 11

7:00 a.m. – Bible Study  
8:00 a.m. No Clergy Meeting  
10-Noon Play Group  
11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist – Oasis  
3:30 p.m. Alpha Club  
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

#### Fri. October 12

1-5 p.m. Diocesan Executive Committee at Grace  
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer and Healing at Grace

#### Sat. October 13

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study  
8:30 -3 Diocesan Executive Committee

#### Sun. October 14

9:00 a.m. One Service  
9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service  
& Children's Church

#### Mon. October 15

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

#### Tues. October 16

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study at Grace  
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis  
6:30 p.m. Prayer Training for Mike Endicott Conf.  
7:00 p.m. Scentsy Party

### Rector's Bible Study

Tuesdays  
11:30 a.m.

Fr. Joe is leading the group through a study of the Book of Revelation. Everyone is welcome.  
B.Y.O.L. (Bring your own lunch)

**Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.**  
**Morning Prayer At Grace Anglican**  
**All are welcome to attend.**

**Weekly** – There are over 25 small groups meeting during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of all the groups or you can find the list on our website: [www.graceanglicanchurch.com](http://www.graceanglicanchurch.com).

## Save the date!

Oct. 9 Fellowship Potluck & Fellowship  
Oct. 10 Soaking Prayer  
Oct. 17 Vestry meeting  
Oct. 23 New Tuesday night teaching – Christianity Explored  
Oct. 27 Women's Autumn Country Tea  
Oct. 28 Saints & Angels party at Grace  
Nov. 4 Angel Tree Sunday  
Nov. 10 Prayers & Squares  
Nov. 10 2:00 p.m. – Helen Fritz Memorial Service  
Nov. 12 Mike Endicott – OSL Healing Conference at Grace Anglican Church  
Nov. 17 Military Outreach – Childcare for shoppers.

## Did you know?

There's a service of Evening Prayer and Healing on Friday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Stop by on your way home from work and decompress for the weekend.