



# STAYING CONNECTED

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MCIVOR CHURCH FAMILY

JULY 9, 2023

*You are a valued member of our family and a gift!*

## WORSHIP - REIGN IN US

*You thought of us before the world began to breathe  
And You knew our names before we came to be  
You saw the very day we'd fall away from You  
And how desperately we need to be redeemed  
Lord Jesus come lead us, we're desperate for Your touch*

*Oh great and mighty One, with one desire we come  
That You would reign, that You would reign in us  
We're offering up our lives, a living sacrifice  
That You would reign, that You would reign in us*

*Spirit of the living God fall fresh again  
Come search our hearts and purify our lives  
We need Your perfect love we need Your discipline  
We're lost unless You guide us with Your light  
Lord Jesus come lead us, we're desperate for Your touch*

*We cry out for Your life to refine us  
Cry out for Your love to define us  
Cry out for Your mercy to keep us  
Blameless until You return*

## PRAYER - CLARA TOEWS

In Philippians the Apostle Paul writes, "Be anxious for nothing but in everything with prayer and petition with thanksgiving let your request be known to God."

No request is so small as to be ridiculed by Almighty God and no request is so overwhelming that God cannot help. Eternal God, thank you for hearing us.

We praise You because You are gracious and merciful and that Your compassion is over all that You have made. We can trust You with our requests.

We give thanks for the peace and freedom of this place, but are conscious of where there is violence and great need. We remember Ukraine, the Middle East and so many other places. Help us not to forget the places of violence in our own city and neighbourhood. Many of us have lives of privilege, but we know that there are those also in our country, our community and church who are struggling economically. Give wisdom and compassion to our government leaders and also to us as individuals that

we together may act justly and generously.

We praise You for good health, but remember the many among us who are ill in body, mind or soul. We ask for strength, hope and healing. May Your presence be near to each one; may they know that they are loved.

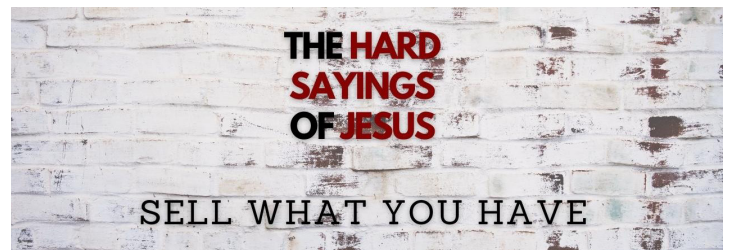
We pray for the young people we are helping to send to camp. We ask for Your protection and guidance for the leaders at Camp Arnes and for the campers.

During these beautiful summer months, many of us, our loved ones and our fellow citizens are vacationing elsewhere. We ask for Your physical protection as we travel. May our enjoyment of all the natural beauty and new experiences be deepened by the knowledge that You are the source of all this goodness. May the many family meetings be filled with Your peace and Your joy. Where there is family tension, may we carry the peace of Christ with us. And for those who are no longer free to travel much beyond home, we ask Your very special nearness.

We also bring to You the silent petitions of our hearts. Grant Your reassurance that You do hear our prayers and answer as You know is best for us. Amen

## SERMON - PASTOR KIM

### THE HARD SAYINGS OF JESUS: SELL WHAT YOU HAVE (MARK 10:17-31)



By this point in the Gospel of Mark, there has been a lot of teaching, stories of miracles and Jesus had predicted His death. Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. The crowd was growing and a man came running up to Jesus. This story is told in Matthew, Mark and Luke. Matthew tells us the man was young. Luke tells us he was a religious leader and all three tell us that he was rich. This is a call story for the rich man and a teaching moment for the disciples.

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The rich young ruler had a question for Jesus: how do I inherit eternal life? As a wealthy man, he knew about inheritances and the conditions that surrounded them at the time. He wondered, "What are the requirements for inheriting eternal life?"

Jesus told him about the commandments and the man replied that he kept those. Jesus told him there's one more thing, "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

This was shocking to the rich young ruler. His face fell and he went away sad, because he had many possessions.

Jesus turned to his disciples to continue his teaching. While the lesson began with the rich young ruler, Jesus made a shift, from the rich young ruler, to all rich people and then to all people! The text tells us that this amazed the disciples.

Jesus continued, "It's hard for people to enter the Kingdom of God. In fact it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God."

It is just plain hard to enter the Kingdom of God and it's hardest for the rich people. Now you've likely heard the explanation that the "eye of the needle" was another name for a small door in Jerusalem. Some theologians say that's a newer explanation and that that's not what Jesus meant. In fact that would make this passage a little too easy. Peter asked, "So who can be saved?"

The answer then and now is that no one can be saved without God. No matter who you are, or what you have done, you cannot be saved on your own.

Earlier Jesus had interacted with a group of parents and children. He told the people that they needed to have a childlike faith, to receive the Kingdom of God like a child. After the rich young ruler walked away and he began his teaching, he called the disciples, "dear children."

So we have this contrast. In the first passage with the children, Jesus made it sound easy: just have the faith of a child! The disciples had scolded the parents about bringing the children to Jesus, but Jesus said let them come. It was easy; there was no requirement, just come. Then a short time later Jesus said it's really hard... actually it's impossible to inherit the Kingdom of God!

So here we have a paradox, two things so opposite that they are beyond contradiction, yet when unpacked they

make sense. First we have the easy way to come to God: come as a child. But just a little while later Jesus says, it's hard, no actually it's impossible. So which is it? Easy, or impossible?

Impossible on our own; totally possible with God.

We can never do enough to earn our salvation, it is just simply a gift. While the idea of a child-like faith may seem too simple, the story of the rich young ruler could leave us wondering how much our works and obedience come into play.

Jesus wants our devotion, which includes serving in various ways. But he also wants us to come with a simple trust, like that of a child.

This story also serves as a reminder of the danger of trusting in our own wealth. Jesus spoke a lot about money and possessions. And the example of the rich young ruler, who could not part with his wealth, is a sobering reminder for us all.

Who can be saved? "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God." Mark 10:27



Our beautiful flower garden and freshly painted windows!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Harvest Food Bank  
July 23 Appreciation Lunch - Pastor Scott & Natalie  
August 9 - 1st Annual McIvor Garden Tour

## WAYS TO GIVE

**Drop-Off Cash or Cheque** during office hours Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

**E-Transfer** - Can be set up through your bank and emailed to [mcivor@mcivorchurch.com](mailto:mcivor@mcivorchurch.com).

**Direct Deposit** - Contact church office to request the forms to set up automatic monthly donations.