What Must We Do?

*‘To enter the Kingdom of Heaven we must allow ourselves to be astonished.’ – Pope Francis*

Our readings during these next few weeks confront us with several questions – and Jesus gives us some clear answers. What must I do to inherit eternal life? Live simply, he says. Don’t strive to accumulate wealth. Instead, accept the Kingdom like a Child. In other words, be humble.

Jesus also asks, “can you drink the cup?” As we see Jesus interacting with his very human Disciples, we learn that following Jesus is not easy, but we’ll never do it alone. (He reminds us once again of God’s eternal nature, “my words will never pass away.” He is with us forever.)

The readings also show us this: Jesus wants us **to trust** completely in God’s ability to give us exactly what we need (the two widows) and Jesus shows us what God values most - he exalts the poor and lowly widow. He’s on her side. We clearly see that God values humility. In fact, St. Paul reminds us that Jesus himself, God incarnate, was made “lower than the angels.” The Son of man came to serve (Oct. 20).

So what must I do… to inherit eternal life, to “drink the cup” and live more like Christ? We keep striving with a commitment that seems to require a miracle at times. But much like a camel squeezing through the eye of a needle (Mark 10:25), we know that God can make it happen.

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**From Pope Francis:**

“To enter the Kingdom of Heaven we must make ourselves small like children…The child always asks a thousand questions because he wants to discover the world; and he wonders even at little things, because everything is new to him. To enter into the Kingdom of Heaven we must allow ourselves to be astonished.”

*(General Audience, Nov. 15, 2017)*

At the end of each week’s discussion, we can re-visit the Pope’s suggestion and ask ourselves:

***How was I astonished this week?***

*Hopefully, as we are more attentive each week, we can be astonished by God’s grace and goodness all around us, and by the goodness and love shown by other people.*

*Pay attention and see what happens.*