



Grain

“The show is about to begin. Please silence any political text notifications.” –Alison Wong, “The New Yorker” (cartoon)

Field

23 Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" 24 And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25 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." 26 They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" 27 Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." Mark 10:23-27

Thoughts

Jesus' words feel close during election time when we are reminded of the influence of money on politics. We have insufficient campaign finance restrictions and continue to live with a 2010 U.S. Supreme Court decision that gave constitutional rights, before meant only for individuals, to corporations, super PACs, etc. We expect money to have an impact on elections but have moved in the direction of its influence on steroids.

It isn't the fault of elected officials and new candidates running for office that they are part of a system that demands so much of their time fundraising. But some candidates give into the great temptation to create stories and lies based on the source of their campaign contributions, whether their financing is from secular or religious organizations.

It's more difficult to live in reality, make sense of the world, and embrace God's love for our neighbor believing political lies, so often entangled with money, than it is for a camel to get through the eye of a needle. Now, let us take time to check facts, pray for the grace to discern truth, and allow God's and our own forgiveness of ourselves and others when we learn we have made mistakes. Make a pledge to seek truth.

Recently, the bishops at the Conference of Bishops pledged to Pledge to be vigilant guardians of truth, refusing to perpetuate lies or half-truths that further corrode the fabric of our society; commit to rigorous fact-checking, honoring God's command to "test everything; hold fast to what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21); pledge to be vigilant guardians of truth, refusing to perpetuate lies or half-truths that further corrode the fabric of our society... [Click here for the full document.](#)

In the long run, let us educate about and advocate for better state and national policies that temper the influence of money on politics. We also pray for love and justice to seep through within our broken systems. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy