

The Footscray Baptist Church celebrates the God-given diversity of cultures. We welcome you to join us in the journey of faith, whatever your race, religion, capability, gender or sexuality.

<u>Bible Study - Mission in Matthew's Gospel - Matthew 18:10-14 (NRSV)</u> <sup>10</sup> "Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. <sup>12</sup> What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? <sup>13</sup> And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. <sup>14</sup> So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

<u>Bible Study - Mission in Matthew's Gospel -Matthew 19: 16-26 (NRSV)</u> <sup>16</sup> Then someone came to him and said, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" <sup>17</sup> And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." <sup>18</sup> He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; <sup>19</sup> Honor your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>20</sup> The young man said to him, "I have kept all these;<sup>III</sup> what do I still lack?" <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money<sup>III</sup> to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." <sup>22</sup> When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>24</sup> 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." <sup>25</sup> When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, "Then who can be saved?" <sup>26</sup> But Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible."

Some questions to get us started

<u>Chapter 18:10-14</u> Who are the lost sheep we should go looking for? Where should we look? Why is it sometimes hard to rejoice when someone we think is 'unworthy' returns to the flock? <u>Chapter 19:16-26</u> What do you think the young man does in the end? Why? Is it realistic to sell possessions and give the proceeds to the poor? What should w do with what we have? What should the church do with what it has? How might it be possible for a camel to go through the eye of the needle? Or is it just absurd?

What is the main message for us in both these passages?