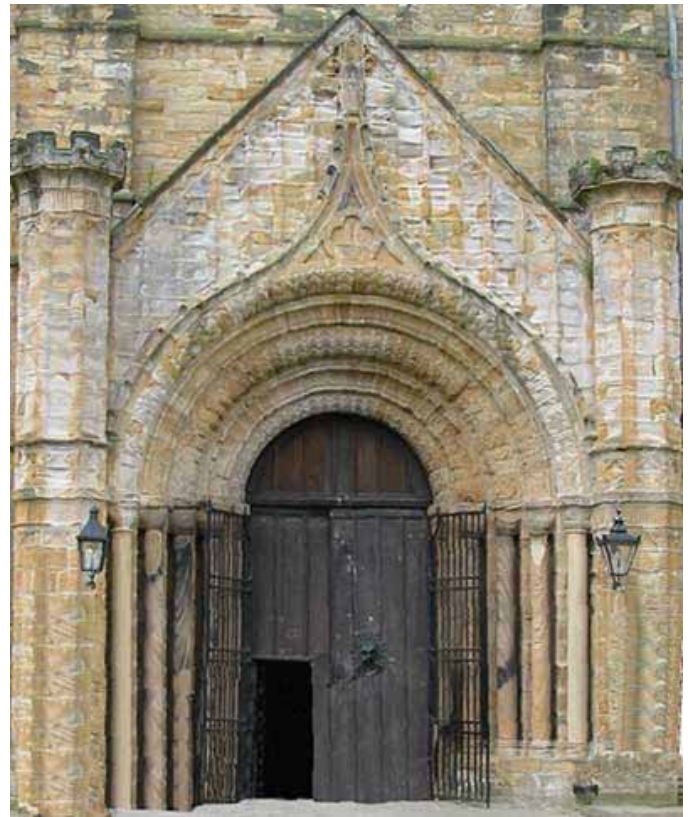


"And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:24-26 KJV

The "Needle's Eye" was a small door in the city gate that could be opened after the gate was shut for the night. A camel could pass through it, but it would have to be totally unloaded, and then get down on its knees and be led through the tiny opening with much pushing and prodding. Camels can be downright cantankerous when they want to be, biting and spitting at anyone near enough to reach. Many times the prospect of the nearly impossible task would prompt the traveler to camp outside the wall until the main gate opened in the morning. As hard as it was, Jesus said it was easier than getting a rich man into heaven, but not impossible for God. Of course, you could read it literally, which would make it a total impossibility for man. For the wealthy to enter into heaven, they must "unload" all their cargo and humble themselves under the mighty hand of God. Most wealthy individuals are prideful. They tend to look down on the less fortunate. They trust in their wealth for their needs instead of realizing that everything under the sun belongs to God and they've just been made stewards over a larger portion than most. Wealth buys power and power corrupts. The more wealth, the more power it buys and the more corruption it breeds. It's rare to find a wealthy man who is Godly. They are almost non-existent. In a day of greed and ungodly men, it becomes harder than ever for the wealthy to approach God on their knees "unloaded." We should lift up their souls in prayer to God and not envy their possessions. Someone once asked how much money Howard Hughes left behind. The answer is simple, "He left it all." We will all leave it all.



If any man would enter in,
To Heaven's portals, he must bend,
And bow before the Sovereign KING,
With humble heart for offering. ~CGP

Are you carrying too many possessions to get through the "needle's eye?" The possessions I refer to are personal pride, intellect, and feelings. God's Word tell us plainly what God expects from men. *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep (obey) His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."* We so often try to substitute our own good works for the obedience that God requires, for *"God has commanded men everywhere to repent."* In other words, turn from doing it your way to doing it God's way!

"And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mark 8:34-37 KJV