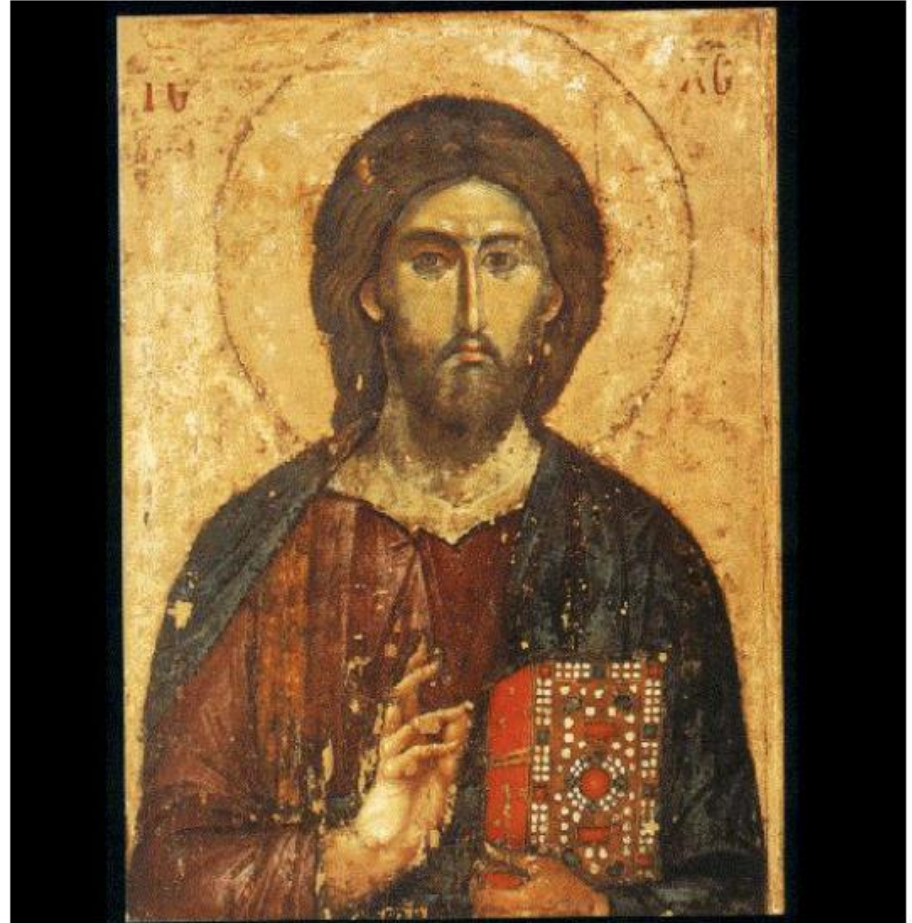


However he said it, it was connected to what God is up to in the world:

- *"I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me." (John 6:38)*



Belonging

The Two Shall Become One

Can wealth distance us from an essential element of being human?

The inescapable dimension of being dependent on others

“Vision is the ability to see what others may not. It is the capacity to see potential, what things could be. It is the ability to see what God sees, and the God-given motivation to bring what we see to pass! We need faith to see the unseen, and by seeing what God sees for our future, we begin to have a vision. This is how we begin to see, not only with our eyes, but also with our heart.”

Transformation is a serious step in the life of a congregation. It draws on the discernment of the membership and the leadership that the congregation is called by God to continue to work in a community that desperately needs to hear the word of grace because Jesus is alive and working in our midst.

Transformation looks like...

Congregation of life is first and foremost based on spiritual depth and vitality found in prayer, scripture study and holy conversation.

The congregation must be clear about its identity and core values.

Usually is connected to new pastoral leadership.

The pastor and the key leaders must work together – willingness to confront the roadblocks (usually those who are currently leaders)

The congregation reconnects with the surrounding community.

There's a willingness to plan for mission and carry out the plan.

Committing adequate resources to the mission of the congregation.

A clearly decisive to engage the activity of God, rather than the survival of the institution and its history.

**It is nearly irresistible
to soften this passage's demands**

Mark 10:24

Edited from the original text

“how hard it is *for those who trust in riches* to enter the kingdom
of God”

See the King James Version

9th Century Edit

The idea of a low gate into Jerusalem called he “eye of the needle” through which camels could only pass if stooped and unladen.

No such gate ever existed

The point – Jesus is talking about people’s attitudes

Jesus' Main Point to the Rich Young Ruler

Go distribute all you have

To the Poor

Change Your Relationship With The Poor

Help Them

Identify With Them

Jesus Calls The Young Man – Us, Too!

A new community - - -The same care for all

**A life of authentic discipleship contravenes
the world's values.**

The result – fight back

Out of Love

**Getting rid of wealth might then move
the rich man to a point where he might
truly be receptive to God**

Receptivity is Not His Problem

His response is not arrogant or self-righteous

This parable, resists, simple explanations, which make us uncomfortable in even trying to understand what Jesus is trying to teach.

This story, like a parable, intent to be experienced rather than explained – but not experienced in a simplistic manner,

keeps us focused on the real life demands of discipleship on the seriousness of this new community envisioned by the kingdom of God