

“A Pretend Story about a Rich Man”

[Mark 10:17-31](#)

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By Rebecca Enney

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? How can I get to Heaven?” The part of the man is being played again this week by Mr. Potato Head.

Jesus answered “You know all the commandments. You shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not lie. Honor your mother and father.”

“Well, well, well.” the man interrupted. “I’ve kept all those commandments my whole life.”

Jesus looked at the man . . . loved him and said “You must love me more than you love all the other things in your life.”

The man thought of all the things in his life that he loves. He loves his wife, his two Tater Tots and his mother. There is his TV and his electric guitar from his college days and his computer, and his expensive bicycle. There is that whole potato bun factory where he is the manager. And there are his cars and his house! And pizza? And what about his favorite hat? The man LOVES this hat!



And so it was, the man was full of sorrow, because there are many things he loves more than he loves Jesus.

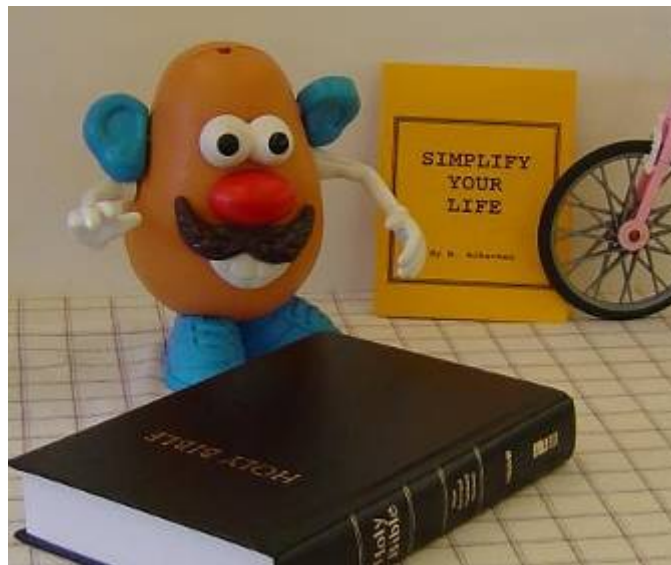
Then Jesus said “How hard it will be for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. It would be as hard as trying to thread this rope through the eye of this needle.” (show rope and needle)



“That would not be possible to thread that rope through that needle.” said the man. “Does that mean that no one can enter the kingdom of God?”

“Listen.” said Jesus. “Look at the things you think you love. When entering the Kingdom of God, you can’t take all that stuff with you! Leave it behind. Give to the poor! Follow me! For a mere man, this is impossible, but with God’s help, all things are possible.”

The man considered what he heard, borrowed a truck from a friend, put many items into the back of the truck. Then he hitched two of his cars onto the back of the truck and drove to New Hope Ministries on Trindle Road in Mechanicsburg and donated it all, including the cars. Then he returned the truck to Uncle Floyd. He got on his bicycle and rode to the bookstore and bought a second hand book on how to simplify his life. When he finished the book he donated it to the library and started to read his Bible.



After a time the rich man returned to Jesus and said “I have come to follow you.”

Jesus held the rope and the needle in the air and carefully threaded the large piece of rope through that tiny needle.



“You see, with God, all things ARE possible!” THE END