

WEEK 16: MARK 10 - ON MARRIAGE, LITTLE CHILDREN, WEALTH, AND GREATNESS

HIGH SCHOOL

GOAL

To develop a better understanding of Mark 10

LESSON

Materials Needed: Orthodox Study Bible

Extended Learning Opportunities:

The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Mark pages 82-93

The Gospel of Mark the Suffering Servant by Fr. Lawrence Farley pages 156-177

GOSPEL OF MARK - CHAPTER 10

Read verses 1-12 and discuss: (Marriage)

First, there's a little bit of context that is beneficial to understand before discussing the meaning behind these verses. Jesus is once again teaching the crowd around Him. He is in an area where the majority of the people are supporters of King Herod. The Pharisees are still determined to see if they can get Jesus to say something that will get others mad at Him. This is why they ask him about marriage and divorce - because St. John the Baptist was put to death over King Herod's remarriage. The Pharisees are hoping the same will happen to Jesus if they can get Him to say something that will provoke the crowd with anger.

Secondly, Jesus explains that marriage is sacred. When a man and a woman get married, they become one - their home, their family, and their life together. As a married couple, you always try to work through any disagreements and hardships together. Oftentimes, these are opportunities for growth between the couple as they work towards their salvation together. The Church recognizes there are some situations which inhibit the couple's ability to work on their salvation together anymore. In these instances, with great sadness, the couple divorces in an attempt to heal and continue to work on their salvation separately. The ideal is always to try to resolve any problems and stay together.

Verses 13-16: (Children)

Parents were starting to bring their children to Jesus in hopes that He would offer a blessing to them. The disciples didn't want Jesus to be burdened with even more people approaching Him so they started turning away the parents with their children. Not only does Jesus tell the disciples to let the children come to him, but He also picks up the children, holds them, and offers them a blessing! Jesus tells the disciples that "for of such is the kingdom of God." What does this mean? St. Theophylact explains that Jesus says those who are guileless (honest, straightforward) and without doubt will also enter into heaven.

Verses 17-31: (Wealth)

This man followed all of the commandments since he was a child. When he asked Jesus what he could do to earn the kingdom of heaven, Jesus told him to sell all that he owned and come be one of His disciples. The man didn't even respond verbally. His face said everything! He was too attached to his possessions - everything he had worked so hard to buy - that he couldn't part with them and be one of Christ's disciples. He had made his wealth and possessions more important than God and therefore his choice was his possessions over the kingdom of heaven.

Verses 32-34: (Prediction)

Jesus gives a third and more detailed prediction of His death and Resurrection.

Verses 35-45: (Greatness)

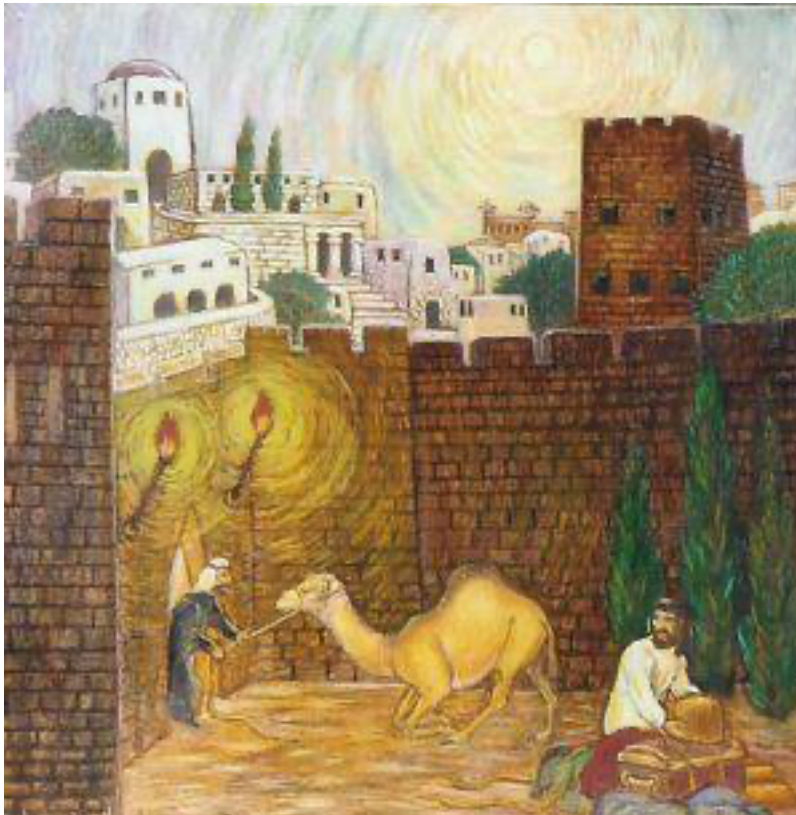
James and John were showing their enthusiasm for how much they wanted to be part of Jesus' (what they thought was going to be His earthly) kingdom, but it was also partly motivated by their human desire for greatness as well. Jesus explains to them that this is not a competition between them and the other disciples and they don't fully understand what they are asking of Him. Additionally, He explains that even He did not come to be served but to serve - even unto His own death! Are we willing to sacrifice our own wants and desires for the benefit of others?

Verses 46-52: (Healing of a Blind Man)

The people were hushing the blind man calling out to Jesus because they knew He was a great man and thought He didn't need to bother with a blind beggar. Jesus publicly calls the man to Him and heals him because of his great faith. Does the man walk away? No, he follows Jesus, demonstrating that his deep faith in Him is genuine!

REVIEW:

- In this lesson, we learn about marriage, children, wealth, and greatness in relation to our path to salvation.
- Explain to me how marriage is a path to salvation for the husband and wife. How do they work towards this goal together?
- What are some qualities that children tend to naturally have that Jesus is telling people are necessary to enter the kingdom of heaven?
- How is wealth, and especially a love of possessions, an obstacle to salvation?
- Is greatness about your rank in this world? What is it about? What is our goal in life?



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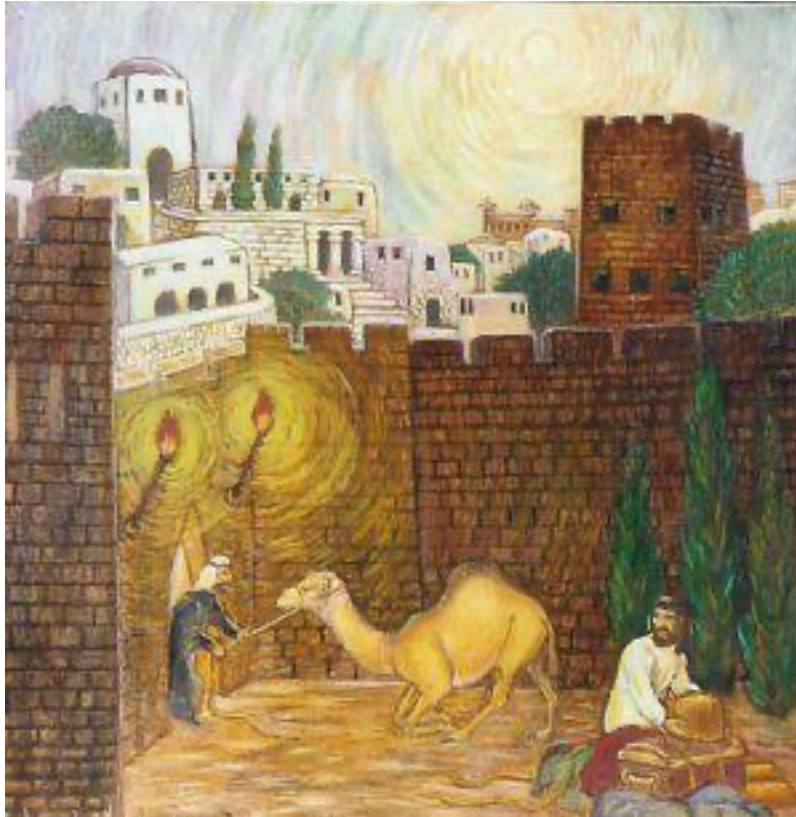
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REVIEW:

- In this lesson, we learn about marriage, children, wealth, and greatness in relation to our path to heaven.
- We have many sacraments in the Orthodox Church and marriage is one of them. What are some of the others?
- Jesus does not just interact with the adults. He also lovingly holds the children and blesses them. Do you think Jesus will also listen to the prayers of children? When are times you can pray to God?
- When do the things you own - the things in your room - become more important than God or your family? (Do you say prayers at night or read a book / electronic? Do you ignore your parents while you're playing on the computer or tablet or do you look up to see what they are saying to you?)
- Is it more important how people see you in this world? (Are you the best student in your class? Are you the best player on your team? Are you the best musician in your group?) Or is it more important that we work towards going to heaven? What are some ways we can work towards this goal?

Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” Mark 10:23-25



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3RD - 4TH GRADE

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Secondly, Jesus explains that marriage is sacred. (It is one of our sacraments!) When a man and a woman get married, they become one - their home, their family, and their life together. As a married couple, you always try to work through any disagreements and hardships together. We do this with all of our relationships, but it's especially important to do this when we're married. Our goal is always to work towards going to heaven and we do that together as husband and wife. Sometimes, there are reasons things cannot be worked out in a marriage. It's sad when this happens and everyone tries to heal from a divorce as best as possible, but we should always try to work through things first. Who could you always go to for help? Your priest!

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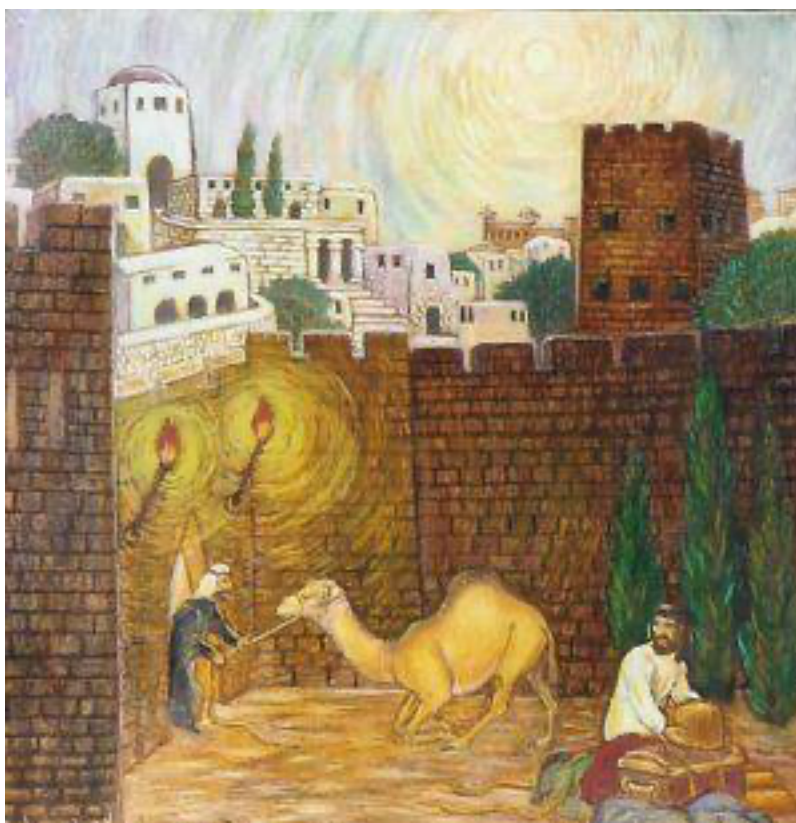
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1ST - 2ND GRADE

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GOSPEL OF MARK - CHAPTER 10

In this chapter of the Gospel of Mark, we learn about the sacrament of marriage, that Jesus welcomes children to come to Him, and that our stuff is not as important as God.

Marriage:

As Orthodox Christians, we participate in many sacraments. What is a sacrament? It is a holy act. There is both a visible (what we see with our eyes) and an invisible (what we believe and know to happen) part of a sacrament. Marriage is one of our sacraments. It is when a man and woman get married. What is another sacrament we learned about last year? Holy Communion!

Jesus' first miracle was at the wedding in Cana. (Read pages 184-185 of the Orthodox Children's Bible)

Children:

Who can we pray to when we are happy, sad, sick, or having a problem? Jesus! Let's learn what happened when a bunch of moms were bringing their kids to Jesus. (Read pages 198 of the Orthodox Children's Bible)

REVIEW:

- Is marriage one of our sacraments? (Yes!)
- What was Jesus' first miracle? (The Wedding at Cana)
- When the disciples told the parents to go away and not bring their children to Jesus, what did Jesus do? (He said to let the children come to him. He held them and blessed them.)
- Who can you pray to when you are happy, sad, sick, or have a problem? (Jesus)



"Icon of The Wedding at Cana" by [lucia398](#) is marked with [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#)

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PRE-K - KINDERGARTEN

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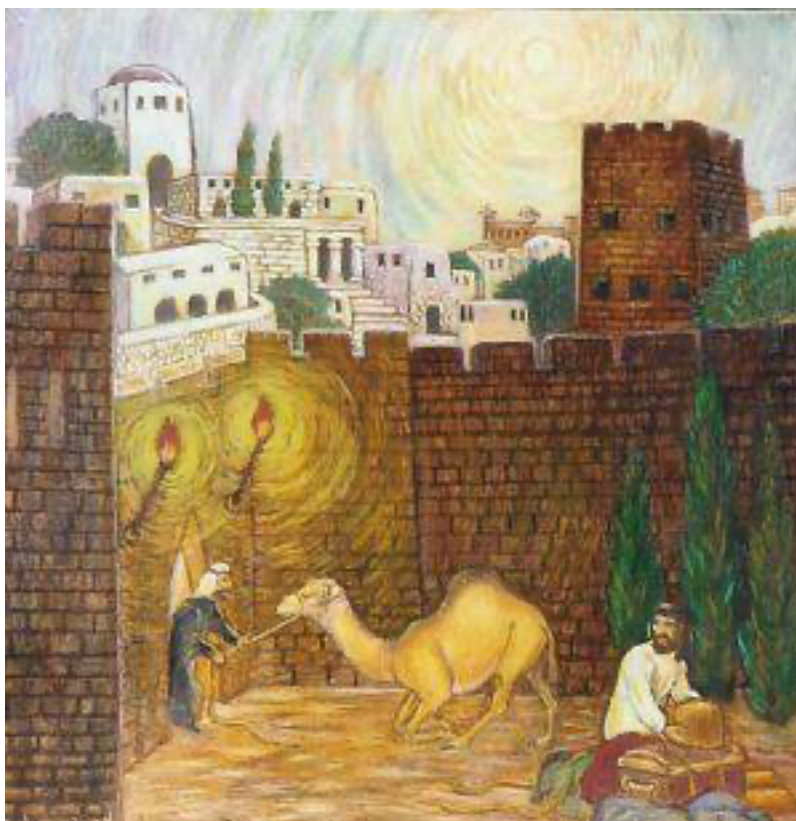
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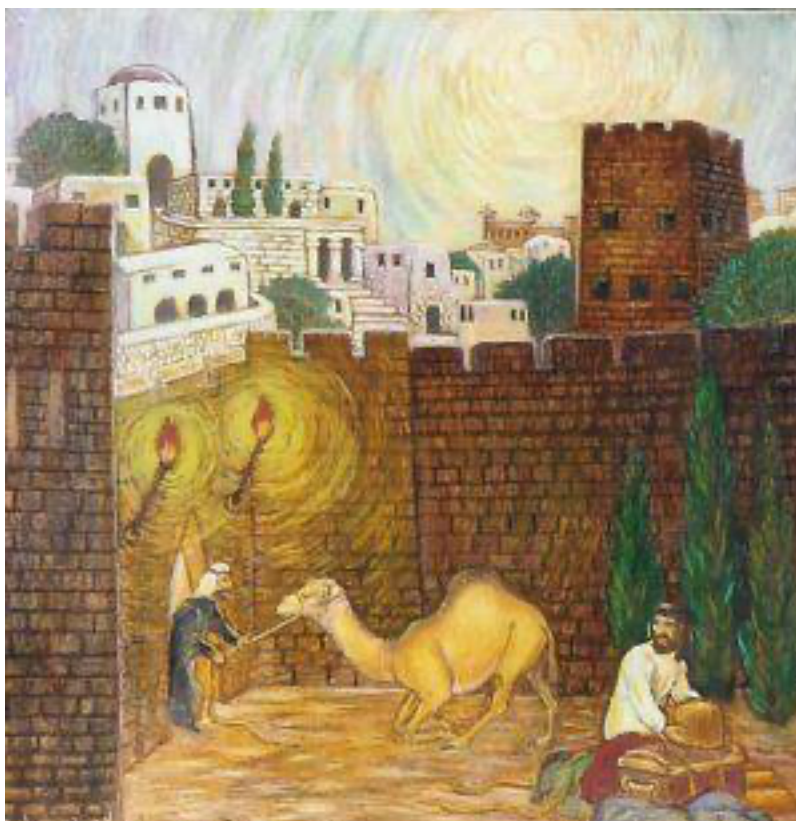
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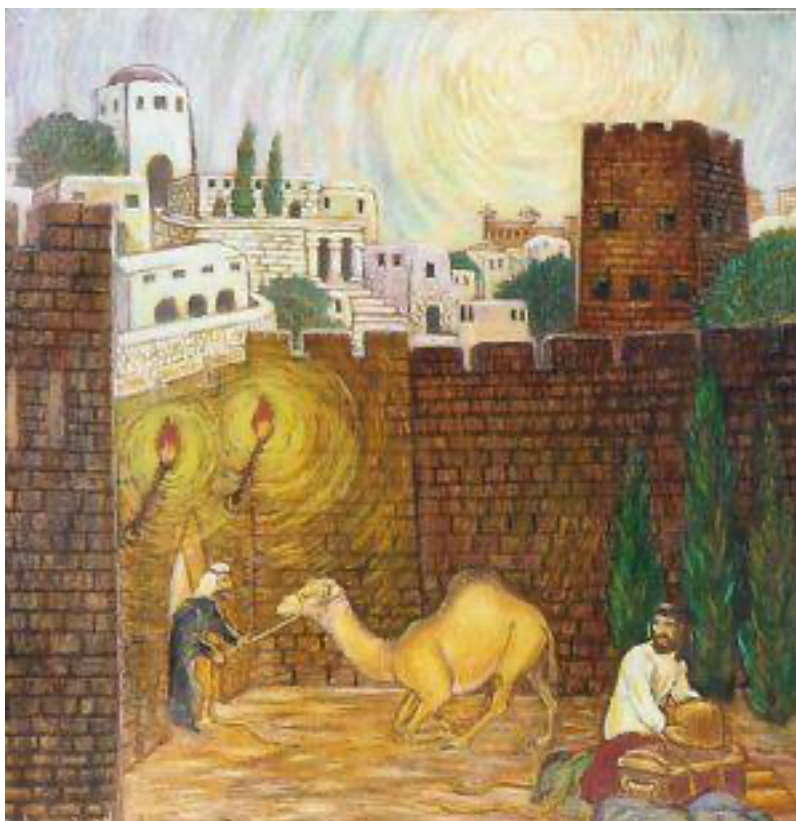
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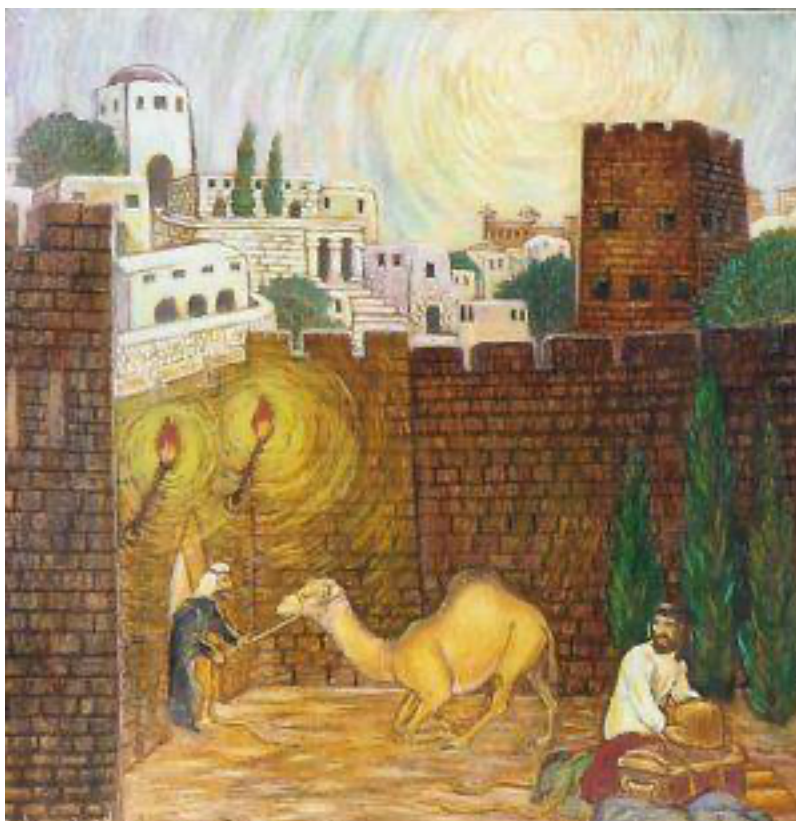
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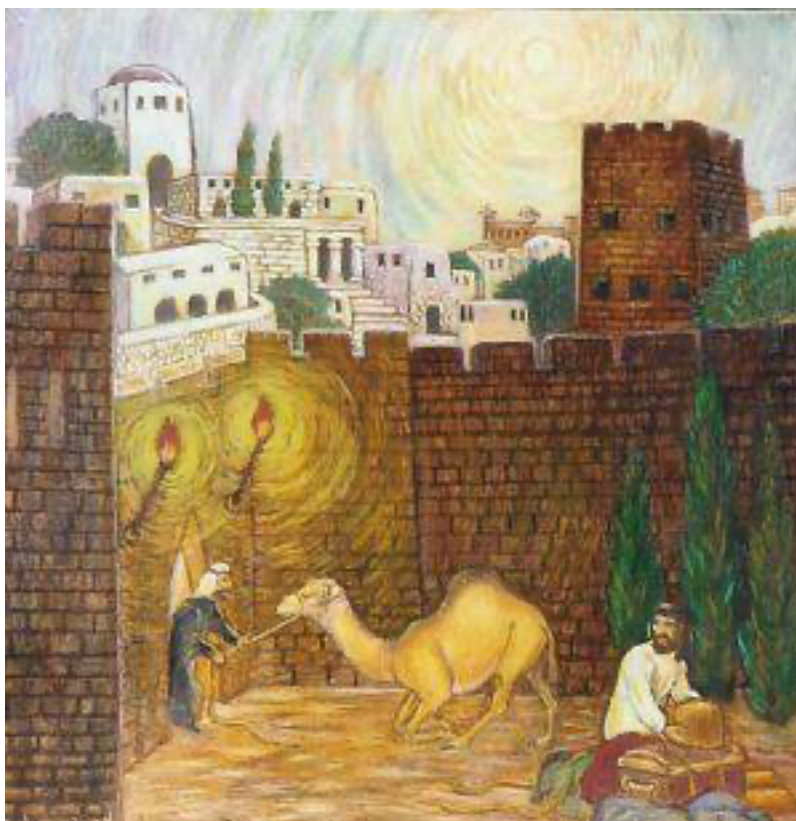
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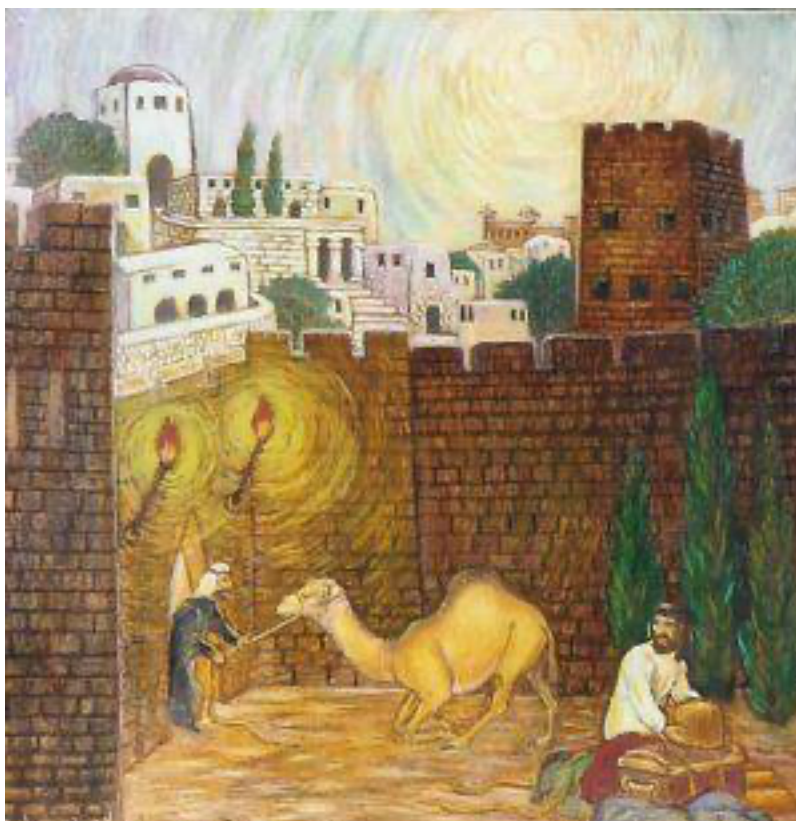
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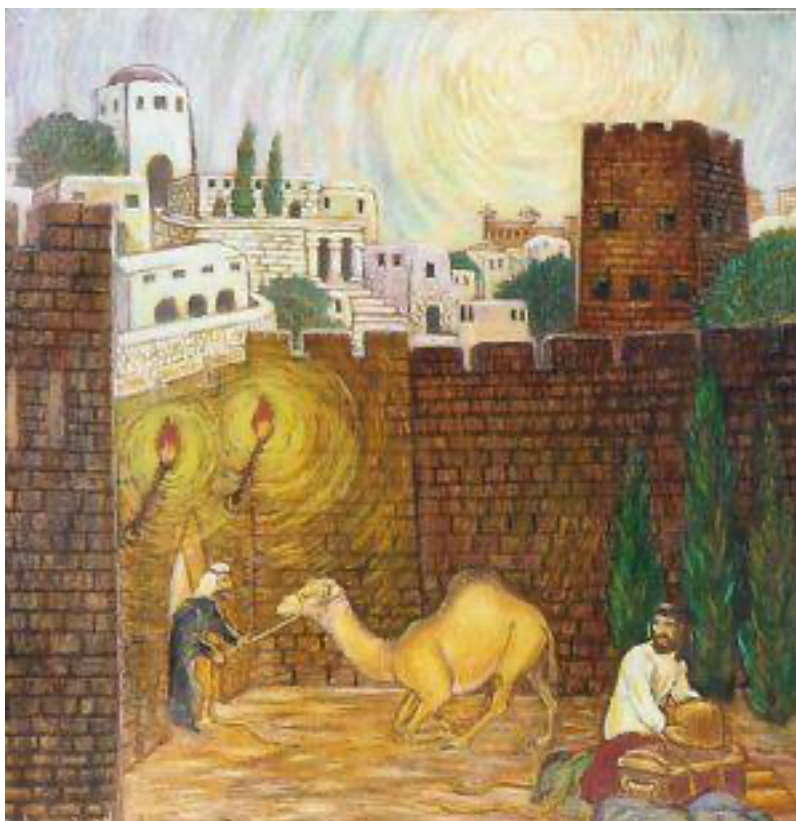
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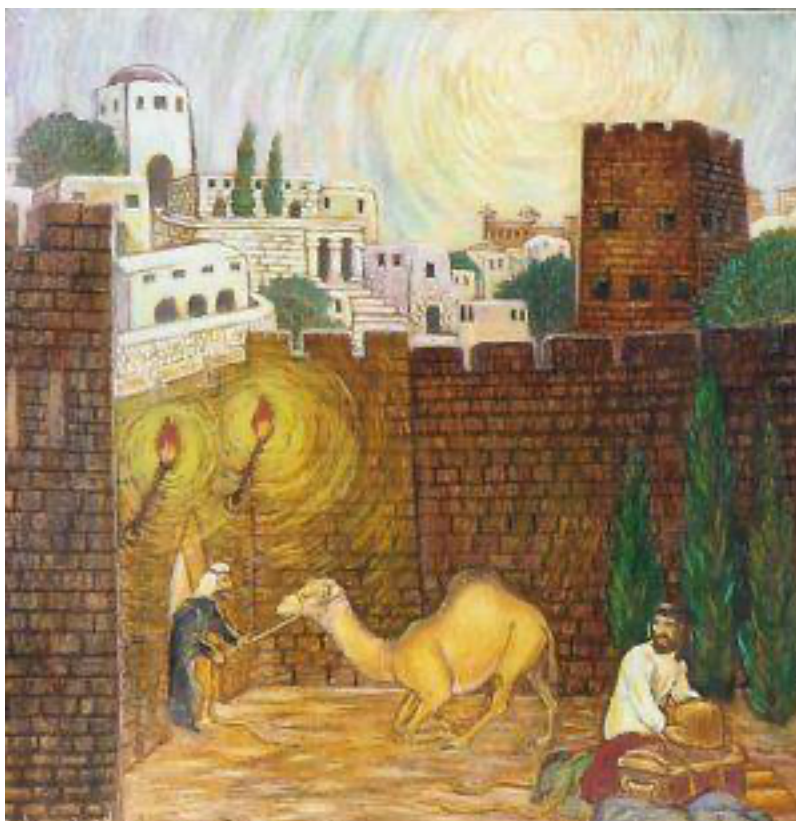
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