

The 14th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, August 25, 2024
“Close Encounters with Jesus: The One That Walked Away”
Mark 10:17-31

In this morning’s close encounter, we meet a man who seemed to have everything going for Him. Yet his heart still _____. Something was missing, and like the woman at the well, he was looking for his missing piece in all the wrong places; however, not in a string of relationships, but in _____ and material prosperity.

What makes this story so remarkable, is the _____ of the man. Matthew notes in his version that the man was young, Luke tells us that he was a ruler—probably of the synagogue—and all three report that he was extremely _____.

3 SHOCKING THINGS ABOUT THE MAN

- He _____ to Jesus.
- He _____ before Jesus, assuming a humble posture in the presence of one whom the religious establishment hated. Further, he addressed Jesus respectfully as “good teacher.”
- He _____ his need—that, despite all his religious achievements, he lacked a confident hope of heaven.

Despite all of his _____, there was a nagging fear in the back of his mind that something was missing—an unsatisfied guilt, an unfulfilled longing, a painful doubt about his relationship with God. And so, consistent with the legalistic system of self-righteousness that he was part of, this young man was asking for knowledge of the ultimate _____ that would finally permit Him to obtain eternal life.

The young man’s fundamental problem lay in his misunderstanding and misuse of the word _____, which he used loosely in relation to Jesus—meaning no more by it than to commend Jesus as a good teacher, sent from God. However, by the same token, he considered himself and those like Him, _____ good.

Jesus’ reply, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone,” wasn’t a contradiction of His own goodness or divinity, but was meant to _____ the man’s inadequate understanding of the word ‘good’ and to _____ it in relation to God.

People may be more or less good or bad, but only God is _____, perfectly, and _____ good.

In fact, before someone can receive the gospel, they need to understand that they’re not good in God’s sight, and that no amount of human _____ or religious

observance can ever make them so. It’s only by _____ that we’re saved and made good—i.e. returned to God’s original _____ for us in the garden before the fall.

The young man, like the rest of the religious establishment, had misunderstood the _____ of the Law. The Law was meant to reveal God’s perfect righteousness, holiness, and absolute goodness as the _____ to which all who would achieve salvation by their own righteousness cannot attain.

The Law was meant to show sinners how perfectly good God is and how utterly bad they are, and the reality of divine judgement. It was meant to produce in them guilt and remorse, moving them towards confession and _____. Instead of being an end in itself, as the Jews believed, the Law, according to Paul, was our _____ to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

“So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith.”
(Galatians 3:24)

The rich young man had twisted the Law into a means of establishing his own goodness and _____. And so, Jesus challenges Him to judge himself by the Law and realize that he wasn’t good, by reminding Him of the Ten Commandments.

Far from being convicted of his inability to attain to the perfection of the Law, the young man was convinced that his law-keeping was good enough—that it _____ his righteousness.

Like the Pharisees and other religious leaders of the day, for this young man, the Law was concerned merely with _____ behaviour, like hand washing and dietary habits. However, if he’d truly understood the Law, he’d have realized, as Paul did, that it actually condemned the hatred, lustful thoughts, covetousness, jealousy, lies, and dishonouring of his parent that were a part of the fabric of his heart. Ironically, instead of keeping the Law as he imagined, he actually violated it daily in his _____ and mind.

As a highly respected and honoured religious leader, this young man viewed his prosperity and his exalted position as _____ that he was good and that God was pleased with Him. He was unwilling to acknowledge that he was a _____, affirm that his good works couldn’t save Him, and cast himself on God’s mercy and grace.

Tragically, at the crossroads of his eternal destiny, face-to-face with the Saviour of the world, he took the broad road that leads to _____ and rejected the narrow

way that alone leads to _____.

Essentially, the story of the rich young man is about the difference between grace and _____, religion and _____.

“For the old system dealt only with certain rituals what foods to eat and drink, rules for washing themselves, rules about this and that. The people had to keep these rules to tide them over until Christ came with God's new and better way.” (Heb 9:10)

“For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.” (Matthew 16:25)

TWO KEY STATEMENTS

#1. The _____ of _____.

“How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God.” (Mark 10:23)

THE RICH & THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- Their wealth can give them a false sense of _____.

“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.” (1 Timothy 6:17)

- They can be _____ with the things of this world instead of the things of heaven.

“Where their treasure is, their hearts will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

“For the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” (1 Timothy 6:10)

The problem isn't money or possessions, but our _____ towards them, the control they have over us, and the _____ they have in our lives.

- They can be tempted to be _____, pursuing self-fulfilment and self-gratification.

“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on Him, how can the love of God be in Him?” (1 John 3:17)

- Wealth can become an _____ that replaces God. God doesn't tolerate any _____, and wants _____ place in our hearts and lives.

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other,

or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.” (Matthew 6:24)

“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God.” (Mark 10:25)

The point of this analogy isn't that salvation is just difficult, but rather that humanly _____ for anyone, by any means, including the wealthy. We cannot hold onto our sinful priorities and personal control and come to God on our own _____.

Sinners, by their own power, will, and best efforts, cannot _____ themselves. Only a _____ act of God can change the heart. When sinners, by the work of the Holy Spirit, reach the point where they desire to _____ and be saved, having acknowledged their guilt, they can only cry out to God and ask Him graciously to forgive their sins and save them from judgment, through Jesus Christ

#2. The _____ of _____.

“Peter began to say to Him, ‘See we have left everything and followed you.’ Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.’” (Mark 10:28-30)

- **In this _____.**

All believers become part of the _____, the body of Christ.

We are _____ together. And as the church, we're called to be a united community that cares for one another, _____ one another, supports, admonishes, and protects one another.

- **In the life to _____.**

Those who reject Jesus will be spiritually _____ forever. However, those who _____ all to follow Him will be blessed in this life and receive eternal riches. Of course, this doesn't mean that life will always be _____ or go away. It doesn't mean we will be financially rich and live in a big house. It means we'll know the _____ of being part of the Body of Christ now and forever.

Jesus always promises us so much _____ than we're willing to settle for!

What are you holding onto, and unwilling to let go of?

Unlike the rich young ruler are you willing to pray; “Lord, I give you everything—I give you everything.”