

INI-SDG

In the Name of Jesus – To God Alone the Glory

10.25.2009 Pentecost 21 – St. Stephen Lutheran (West Bay) Mountain View, CA

Intro/Children's Sermon: Following the leader... and leading while following!

Greeting: Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from our Lord Jesus. Amen.

The Word of God I would like to lay upon your hearts this morning is from:

NKJ Mark 10:17 Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" 18 So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. 19 "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' " 20 And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth." 21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." 22 But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

23 Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" 24 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! 25 "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." 26 And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, "Who then can be saved?" 27 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

Prayer: Oh Lord, we constantly are looking for a bargain or finding that great deal every day we live in this world. Show us by Your Holy Spirit through Your Word the price of our Savior Jesus Christ, and what that means for our lives.

What is the Cost of Following Jesus? (Ask it again and again!)

1. Everything

- V17 =
- Good approach? =
- Ironic question? =
- Jesus' response? =
- V18-19 =
- V20 =
- =
- V21 =
- V22 =

THEME: What is the Cost of Following Jesus?

Some examples from Gospel of Mark alone:

- 1:16-20 -1st disciples =
- 2:13-17 -Levi =
- 4:1-20 -Parable of the Sower =
- What in my life... =
- V22 =
- How do you or I compare? =
- Apart from Jesus... =
- Following Jesus... =
- =

Illustration:

Orange tree, lemon tree, or any fruit tree

=

Any Christian - rooted in the waters of Christ's Word (*parable: Sower and seed*)

=

What are you willing to give up? =

Reformation =

What is the Cost of Following Jesus?

2. Nothing

V23-25 -Focus on flesh = !] Was Jesus telling a joke here?

-Camel =

-Needle =

-Reaction... =

How *is this* possible? =

FOCUS =

(2 Cor. 8:9)

Dear Christians rejoice! You KNOW the Cost of Following Jesus.

It may cost us everything... to follow Jesus =

But it costs us nothing... to follow Jesus =

=

By God's grace I rejoice I have opportunity = that as I follow the voice of my Savior, I may lead others to follow Jesus Christ. God help me. Amen.

This peace of God that passes all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Amen.

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Prayer: Oh Lord, we constantly are looking for a bargain or finding that great deal every day we live in this world. Show us by Your Holy Spirit through Your Word the price of our Savior Jesus Christ, and what that means for our lives.

What is the Cost of Following Jesus? (Ask it again and again!)

3. Everything

- V17 = (Matt, Mk, Luke) man was a rich, young, ruler (of synagogue? v19a)
Good approach? = knelt and politely addressed Jesus with respect (worldly ex.)
Ironic question? = **what must I do... to inherit eternal life?**
Jesus' response? = V18 Jesus questioned His faith... Jesus > "good" teacher
V18-19 = Jesus tells the man what he must do... keep the commandments!
V20 = I've done that. I'm a good person. What else do I lack?
= Self righteous – didn't understand what he was lacking (like Luther)
V21 = (Word) reflected on his values in life (following Jesus wasn't one)
V22 = Result? (Sad) desire was for earthly treasure/wealth (Mark 8:34-38)

THEME: What is the Cost of Following Jesus?

Some examples from Gospel of Mark alone:

- 1:16-20 -1st disciples = Left nets, everything [immediately] to follow
2:13-17 -Levi = Left profitable tax business to follow
4:1-20 -Parable of the Sower = (4 groups) v18-19 ...materialism choked it
-What in my life... = is choking out God's seed of faith in my heart?
V22 =choking on this world is obvious with the rich young ruler
How do you or I compare? = V19 Sins of thought as well... (Rom 3:23)
-Apart from Jesus = no one is good! (Mark 2:17)
-Following Jesus = not (as some behave) just a Sunday chore...
= Following Jesus is a way of life!

Illustration:

Orange tree, lemon tree, or any fruit tree

= I've never heard a tree whisper – "did I bear *enough* fruit for you?"

Any Christian - rooted in the waters of Christ's Word (*parable: Sower and seed*)

= In following Christ, out of love – "I want to bear more! *How* can I?"

What are you willing to give up? = Everything? (Riches, pleasures, family?)

Reformation = Luther's example (B.C. video) (Matt 19:29, 30) = Last > First

What is the Cost of Following Jesus?

4. Nothing

V23-25 [fleshly focus = this side of heaven!] Was Jesus telling a joke here?

-Camel = largest animal in that region

-Needle = smallest visible hole

-Disciples reaction... = Laughter? V26 Impossible!

How *is this* possible? = V27 Through the God-man (Mark 10:45) Last > First

FOCUS = Jesus gave up Everything (His life), so salvation costs you Nothing! (2 Cor. 8:9)

Dear Christians rejoice! You know the Cost of Following Jesus.

It may cost us everything... to follow Jesus = in this life, (maybe my life)

But it costs us nothing... to follow Jesus = into the life to come!

= That price of forgiveness, for all my sins, has been paid by my Savior Jesus.

By God's grace I rejoice I have opportunity = that as I follow the voice of my Savior, I may lead others to follow Jesus Christ. God help me. Amen.

This peace of God that passes all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Amen.