

Believing for the Advent-ure!

Living a Life of Daring Faith between Jesus' First and Second Coming

Luke 18.18-34 Live to Da Max Foeva

Lesson from the Rich Young Ruler

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone."

- *Observation:* "Why do you call me good? There is no one good but God." Denial of deity? No, he says "*Why* do you call me good," not "*Don't* call me good." I see a challenge for this young, wealthy, devout man of power and clout to notice what he just said and the implications of it...

You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'"

"Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

Jesus looked at him and loved him.

- "Jesus *looked* at him and he *loved* him." Seeing one another – it's a lost art, isn't it? When's the last time we looked at that teller behind the counter, at the guy wearing the headset and running drive-thru...parents, when's the last time we really saw our kids? Husbands, when's the last time you really saw your wife? It's a lost art that we need to reclaim as "Jesus' guys" – the art of *soul watching*. Take the time to *look*. Jesus did, and he loved him – which means he was going to say exactly what this man needed to hear...

"One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

- *Observation:* And you guys think tithing is hard! Jesus isn't *nice*. He loves us too much to be superficial and polite; to avoid the hard conversation, the awkward moment. Jesus saw this man and loved him, and he wasn't afraid to say to his heart exactly what that man needed to hear at that moment. A hush descends over heaven and earth as the issue of this man's life hangs in the balance...

At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is 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." The disciples were even

more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

- Observation: The point is not that all who come to Christ must take a vow of poverty – although it is true that money and all our stuff tends to own us, rather than the other way around, and those who have stuff are wise to live as though they don’t.
- Here’s the point: **Live Large!** Or as put in Da Jesus book...“Wat I gotta do for live to da max foeva?”

Live to da max foeva!

Dass it! (Hawaiian pigden for “amen”)

2 Cor 6:1 Message rendition:

We beg you, please don't squander one bit of this marvelous life God has given us.

Paul’s recipe to Timothy for taking hold of the “real kine life that stay to da max foeva” (1 Timothy 6:3-19)

If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to

share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

- Now there is “da real kine life dat stay to da max foeva”!
- It’s not found in our stuff or in our religious pursuits – it is found only in the Jesus way – a way that ultimately led to Jerusalem...

Luke 18:31-34

Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again.” The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.

So in Luke, Jesus continues his journey to Jerusalem...

And before we conclude our time together today, we are going to join Christians throughout the world who are pausing to pray together for the peace of Jerusalem.

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!” the Psalmist cried. And when taking up a Gentile offering for the Jewish poor in Jerusalem, Paul said these Gentile believers “were glad to do it, and really, they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the spiritual blessings of the Jews, they owe it to them to share with them their material blessings...” Every believer in Jesus owes a huge debt to Israel, for we have all sprung from Jewish soil. It’s a debt that the church has all too often repayed with pogroms and persecution. Today we want to pray blessing on Israel, and peace for Jerusalem and all who dwell there. And that brings us to this week’s Advent-ure video...