

Lutheran Church of the Master  
580 Kuhn Road, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188  
Curt Gerald, Interim Pastor  
October 10/11, 2009  
19th Sunday after Pentecost  
“From MUSTee to to ahMAYzing!”

### ***Hebrews 4:12-16 (New International Version)***

<sup>12</sup>For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. <sup>13</sup>Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens,<sup>[a]</sup> Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

### ***Mark 10:17-31 (New International Version)***

#### **The Rich Young Man**

<sup>17</sup>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?"

<sup>18</sup>"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. <sup>19</sup>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.'<sup>[a]</sup>"

<sup>20</sup>"Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

<sup>21</sup>Jesus looked at him and loved him. "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."

<sup>22</sup>At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

<sup>24</sup>The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is<sup>[b]</sup> to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>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."

<sup>26</sup>The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"

<sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

<sup>28</sup>Peter said to him, "We have left everything to follow you!"

<sup>29</sup>"I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel <sup>30</sup>will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Remember - we talked about Daniel a couple weeks ago ...  
Chapter 1 verse 4 says "without physical defect, a handsome young dude ...  
Versed in wisdom, with insight and gifted in what he did know ...  
One of the king's chosen servants ... and he ate only good food?"

Well, today a young man who must have been very much of that sort  
Comes up to Jesus a question to ask ...  
He comes with great joy ... but at Jesus' retort  
He kind of crawls back to resume his next daily task.

Our reading says that Jesus looked at him "and loved him" right there on the spot ...  
And those words are not often quoted elsewhere in the Biblical text ...  
The young man was proud that he had never done what he ought not ...  
But Jesus's response left that lovely young man quite perplexed!

"Good teacher" (this guy knows how to start a conversation)  
"to gain eternal life, what must I do?"  
This young man is cocky and confident and, without reservation,  
Is ready for Jesus' next question too.

The ten commandments ... how do they rate in your daily life?  
Do you do what they ask our people to do?  
No murder, no adultery, no stealing, respectful talk, and no coveting of property or wife?  
And do you honor your father and your mother too?

"Oh Master, I pass that test with no sweat ...  
I have never done anything that we aren't supposed to do.  
That's why I came running to you so you could let  
Me know if there is anything else that I shouldn't do too."

You see, though this guy may have been young in age ...  
he had already become really MUSTee ...  
like others who lived in this legalistic stage ...  
"not doing things" was translated as respectability.

But Jesus says that respectability isn't what he is looking for ...  
There is more to life than what we don't do ...  
If you want to enjoy the Heavenly Hilton's dance floor  
We need to answer "what good have you done" too!

This isn't saying that salvation is for sale ...  
Oh my ... Martin Luther would shake in his grave ...  
Anything that sounds like "earning salvation" will fail  
Because only Jesus ... ONLY JESUS ... is able to save.

Salvation is a gift ... you and I know that very well ...  
Nothing we do can merit or earn God's attention or love ...  
"Evangelical" means that's the message we tell  
Always focusing on what comes from above.

Everyone knew in that day, you see,  
That wealth implied a special place in God's eyes.  
The more money you had, oh, you'd say it with glee ...  
The more Godly is what that money implies.

But not so ... says Jesus ... wealth is not the key  
To heaven or to a place in God's heart ...  
If you really want to enjoy the forever in eternity  
Right here on earth is where you really should start.

Living in Jesus is not a listing of MUSTee traditions and rule ...  
It isn't summed up in do's and don'ts to follow each night and each day ...  
Living in Jesus is like attending a school  
Where Jesus is teaching something new: let's call it the "MAY way."

BECAUSE I love you, you don't have to try  
To get my forgiveness, my attention, or my love,  
You already were in the center of my eye  
As I came to Bethlehem (as Luther wrote) "from Heaven Above."

I sought you as I walked through this land which really is mine ...  
I sought you as I blessed each child and healed each hurting one ...  
I sought you as I broke bread and blessed the wine ...  
I sought you as I broke death's chains and declared that a New Age has begun.

Get rid of your "to do lists," let go of your "I haven't done its," let go of YOUR past ...  
Let go of your confidence, your conceit, your certainty, and your pride ...  
Now just hold on to the only thing that into eternity can possibly last ...  
Hold on to knowing that it was only I who on the cross suffered and died.

Now you're set free ... you don't have to merit or earn ...  
You don't have to do a single thing ...  
To "inherit eternal life" ... this lesson please learn ...  
The daughter or son are given it through the Father's will ... it is a family thing!

So now ... what will you do with the good things poured out by our Father's pure pleasure ...  
Feed the hungry ... money for the poor .. clothes for the body ... most of us have what we need!  
We can never outgive what God pours out through his good measure ...  
The only problem is when we get caught with our own personal greed.

Jesus said that greed is like "a big camel walking through a needle's miniscule eye,"  
Because he knew how that for people like you and like me  
Greed focuses our eyes on "these (are the) things that make it difficult to die."  
You know what I mean? Do you agree?

But, Jesus says, with me all things are possible ...  
We say it ...we sing it right here in this place.  
Because we know all things are possible  
When those things are filled with God's grace.

When material possessions are at the center of our thoughts every day  
We think of everything only in terms of price.  
When God's grace becomes the focus of our living and way  
We think only in terms of what could be and what would be nice.

When it comes right down to it ... isn't it true?  
What we have provides us with a very good test?  
In adversity most of us can figure out what to do.  
But prosperity separates the FEW from the REST.

Selfish or generous ...which will it be ...  
Our response when Jesus looks in our face ...  
And asks, "what have you done lately for me?"  
What is your response today to my grace?"

Let our answers not be MUSTee old rules or clichés ...  
Not just what we haven't done ...  
Let our answers be filled with all sort of "MAYS"  
As we continue to serve the Risen One!