

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
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Mark 10:17-27
October 10, 2021

The Life is found where Jesus is Lord.

Now that's the life! What image comes to your mind when you hear, *Now that's the life!*

A walk on a beach? Rest in a hammock with your favorite drink and a good book? Nice house? Favorite meals prepared and served? Life surrounded by well behaved and loving children or grandchildren who make you proud?

The Life - healthy, easy, pleasant, worry-free, living with leisure and a purpose.

❖ Look at this man!

- All 3 Gospels paint a picture of one whom many would say, **he had it all**.
- Matthew: **young man** - 24-40 years old
- Luke: **ruler** - in the local synagogue - **impressive** at this age!
- Devout, observant - *an all around nice guy, a perfect match for your daughter*
- Something was missing. *What am I still lacking?* Mt 19:20 Lacked certainty with God
 - ♦ Jesus is leaving town. This man runs to Jesus - purposeful, respectful
 - ♦ Desperate for an answer: **What must I do to inherit eternal life?**
 - ♦ His question & answer - the mindset of the law written inside: *it's about doing*
 - ♦ A relentless: **OK, but that's not enough. What am I missing/lacking?**

We muse: *I know money can't buy happiness, but I'd sure like to give it a try!*

Wait! It's not funny. This man is hurting. - We age. We die. Where's *the life*?

Look at Jesus' looks! **Jesus looked at him... looked around... looked at them**

- This should get your attention - Jesus is looking into your eyes with compassion
- It's like a triple Amen! **Important** and **most certainly true!**

❖ **One thing you lack...**

- Eyes brighten. Heart leaps. *Jesus heard me. He cares. He's got the answer!*
- **Liquidate all you own. Give the proceeds to the needy. Follow me.**
 - ♦ Give up all you've done, achieved, and accomplished. All you rely on for *the life*.
- Hope, anticipation, excitement **drained**. *Downcast. Darkness set it.*
 - ♦ Many say his problem was: *He loved his wealth, i.e. Stuff.*
 - ♦ Actually: He loved the **lifestyle** wealth afforded. **The life!**
 - *"Children, how hard it is for those who trust in their riches to enter the kingdom of God!"*
 - *trust, place their hope in, place confidence on* - hope to buy *the life*
 - Pleasure, protection, get out of troubles, fulfillment, options/preferences, ease
 - ♦ Jesus invited him to live Jesus' **lifestyle** - not just for a spiritual renewal retreat!
 - Give up prepared meals, nice clothes, bed, house, servants, respected position...
 - You get the picture. - **What if Jesus said that to you?** He does, to a degree.

- What is Jesus saying?!
 - ◆ **Not** you can win eternal life by self-denial - the life of a monk! Back to *doing*
 - ◆ Jesus is asking: *Who or what do you rely on for **the life**?*
 - That's your god! Jesus' focus: ***You shall have no other gods.***
 - ◆ What was missing? **God being his God** - the One he lived in and for.
 - *Fear, love, and trust in God above all things.* Luther SC - 1st Commandment
 - ***To whatever you give your heart and entrust your being, that, I say, is really your God. ...to have a god means to have something on which one's heart depends on entirely.*** Luther Large Catechism - 1st Commandment (your preference)
 - What you *live for* to make *your life worth living* - devoted to for *the life*
 - What you rely on for help in time of trouble
- ❖ Life is a matter of the 1st Commandment for all of us!
 - It is **impossible** for us people to achieve peace with Our Creator!
 - ◆ On our own, we sense there is a God, but we don't know who he is or what he wants from us - that he wants to be our God and we to be his children.
 - ◆ We know what we want and set out to get it - pursue our version of *the life*.
 - ◆ We're arrogant enough to think we can take care of ourselves - choose our goals
 - ◆ We have no idea that he is the source of all good - all we are and have (not sin)
 - ◆ Perfect obedience to him seems undesirable. It interferes with *life*. It's impossible!
 - The Bad News - Good News: ***With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.***
 - ◆ This is the mission God personally took on - Jesus' mission, headed to the cross
 - Jesus is the **good** we are not. *The Lord our righteousness.* Jeremiah 23:6
 - Jesus is the **good sacrifice** that paid for contempt of God. He bought our rescue!
 - Jesus is the **good teacher** of Good News. *3 looks of love.* Gospel that creates new hearts in us that delight in **God being my God** - live in and for him
 - ◆ Saved **from** sin is saved **for** God to be **my God**.
 - *Lord, you made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they find rest in you.* St. Augustine This young ruler demonstrate this reality.
 - What's missing in the heart of our being?
 - Fellowship with the Living God - our Creator - the Source of Life.
 - **Fellowship with the Living God is eternal life.**
 - Look at the 4 terms used in this text for this state:
 - ***inherit eternal life*** v. 17 - ***have treasure in heaven*** v. 21
 - ***enter the kingdom of God*** v. 23, 24, 25 - ***be saved*** v. 26
 - Saved from the reign of sin, death, & hell = Jesus is our Lord

The Life is found where Jesus is Lord.

What happened to this young man who filled his heart and life with *the life* that left him empty? We don't know. The question is where do we go from here? Will we fill our lives with *the life* that leaves us empty or with Jesus who alone offers **The Life** - eternal life?

Pursue **The Life is found where Jesus is Lord.**