

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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Mark 10:17-27

October 9, 2016

Contentment is found where Jesus is Lord.

Take a look! (Show pictures) *Now that's the life!* Right?

Abundant food, drink, clothes; secure shelter, bed; time for leisure & personal pursuits; little or no cares - the lifestyle of the wealthy. Nice, good kid, highly respected, going somewhere, a catch...

❖ Look at this man!

- All 3 Gospels: **great wealth**
- Matthew: **young man** - 24-40 years old
- Luke: **ruler** - in the local synagogue - **impressive** at this age!
- Devout, observant - *an all around nice guy*
- **Not content.** Something is missing. Lacks certainty he's OK with God.
 - ♦ Jesus is leaving town. He runs to Jesus - purposeful, respectful
 - ♦ Desperate for an answer: *What must I do to inherit eternal life?*
 - ♦ His question & answer - reveal the mindset of people: *it's about doing*
 - ♦ Left singing: *I can't get no satisfaction.... - 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.

Three times we read, **Jesus looked at him... around... at them**

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

❖ **One thing you lack...**

- Eyes brighten: *Yippee! He heard me. He cares. He's got the answer!*
- *Liquidate all you own. Give the proceeds to the needy. Follow me.*
- Hope, anticipation, excitement **drained.** *Downcast. Darkness set it.*
 - ♦ It's often said: *He loved his wealth, i.e. Stuff.*
 - ♦ Actually: He loved the **lifestyle** wealth afforded. **That's the life!**
 - ♦ Jesus invited him to live Jesus' **lifestyle** - not just for a weekend retreat!
 - Give up your food, clothes, bed, house, servants, respected position...
 - You get the picture. **What if Jesus said that to you?**

- What is Jesus saying?!
 - ♦ **Not** you can win eternal life by self-denial, the life of a monk!
 - ♦ Jesus is saying: **It's a matter of the First Commandment**
 - ♦ The 1 thing missing: **God being your God** - the One you live in & 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
 - What you value most, for which you live, it makes life worth living
 - What you rely on for help in time of trouble

❖ It's a matter of the 1st Commandment for all of us!

- That's why it is impossible for people to get right with God!
 - ♦ Sin **rebels** against God, **relies** on self, and **sets its heart** on sin/evil
 - ♦ By nature we **don't submit to his Lordship**, nor can we. **Impossible!**
- 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 sent on this mission
 - Jesus is the **good** we are not. *The Lord our righteousness.*
 - Jesus is the **good teacher** of Good News. *3 looks of love.* Gospel that creates a new heart in us that has **God as my God** - live in and for.
 - Jesus is the **good sacrifice** that paid for sin - bought our rescue!
 - ♦ 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
 - What's missing in the heart of our being?
 - Fellowship with the Living God - 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 King

Contentment is found where Jesus is Lord.

Then we don't have our hearts set on empty stuff - but the One who fills.

Contentment rules in our hearts under the reign of the Most High God who promises: *"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."* Hebrews 13:5

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