

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

FOR ALL SAINTS SMALL GROUPS

“Come Away” | Jordan Griesbeck. | February 18, 2018

Matthew 13:44, 19:16-22

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field...

19:16 And behold, a man came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” 17 And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” 18 He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, 19 Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 20 The young man said to him, “All these I have kept. What do I still lack?” 21 Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” 22 When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Other Scripture Passages:

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Hebrews 12:1-4

Intro Question

How do we know if we are following the real Jesus, or a “replicant”?
(This is a reference to the classic sci-fi movie *Bladerunner* with Harrison Ford.)

Background

The interaction of the Rich Young Ruler (RYR) with Jesus provides a window to answer this question. RYR: “Behold, what good deed must I do to gain eternal life?”

- He approaches Jesus as if he is a ticket vendor.
What do I need to do for you to give me what I want?
How much do I “pay” in good deeds in order to get what I want?
- Rich Young Ruler wants something *from* Jesus . . . not Jesus himself.
- This is “Moralistic Therapeutic Deism”—an “almost Christian” version of Christianity that is not Christianity at all. It is a replicant!

Question: In what way(s) have you ever approached God like this RYR? What was the outcome? What did you learn from it ... or would you want to learn from it?

Jesus’ final answer: “Go, sell it all, give it all away, and follow me.”

- The real Jesus is not shy about asking us to surrender everything we care about more than Him . . . in order to enjoy rich relationship with Him.
- Jesus doesn’t want or need our gifts or our deeds. He wants *us*.
- We know we are in relationship with a non-replicant Jesus because we are made uncomfortable by the heart-wrenching surrenders He demands.
- These are the sorts of surrenders that are appropriate to consider during the season of Lent. Not mere fast from foods or sweets or drinking or sweets. But from whatever our lives revolve around that is not Jesus.
 - Moms, is this your kids’ schedule and the perfect future that depends upon the extra sport, or extra lesson, or extra tutoring?
 - Comfort seekers, maybe this is your next drink or next meal or next luxury?
 - What do you need to set aside in order to “arise and go away” with Jesus, your beloved?

Relationship with the real Jesus is costly. But its joys are real and deep and beautiful. By the intensity of both its costs and its joys we know we have the real, non-replicant Jesus. And He has us.

Discuss:

- 1.) “Moralistic” (“what must I do?”)... “Therapeutic” (“what can I get?”)... “Deism” (God is removed until I want or need him). How do we approach Jesus in these ways? What do we treat him as when we do? What do we look like or become the more we do?
- 2.) How is Jesus like the man of Mt. 13:44? How does this make you see Jesus differently? ... yourself differently? ... our church differently?
- 3.) Read Heb 12:1-3. What was the joy set before Jesus? Who does this show him to be? Who might this show you and our church to be? How does this change Lent for you?
- 4.) So how do we know whether we have the real thing in our Christian faith or a replicant?

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