



As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.
~ Jesus (John 20:21)

Part 3: *Bridging the Goodness Gap*

INTRODUCTION – Riches as God’s Blessing?

Jews had good reason to believe that riches were a sign of God’s blessing. **Genesis 13:2; Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Job 1:10; 42:10; Psalm 112:1-3; etc.** Christians, however, do not have the same excuse.

DINE IN – The Disciple Who Never Was

Matthew 19:16-26; Mark 10:17-30; Luke 18:18-30

Only God is good?

- Jesus is being modest.
- Jesus is denying his divinity.
- Jesus is affirming his divinity.
- Jesus is highlighting God’s unique absolute righteousness; which sets up the conversation regarding the need for grace.

TAKE OUT #1 – The Power of Being Indirect

Especially when helping people see negative truths (e.g., our sinfulness) Jesus models an indirect approach that allows others to “discover” the truth with help, rather than directly pronouncing, which can sound condemning and generate defensiveness.

TAKE OUT #2 – Love Says the Hard Things

Love is not doing what makes you or someone else feel good. Love is doing what IS good, in spite of how anyone feels. Love relentlessly leads others to truth. How are you letting the wrong understanding of “love” interfere with living right?

TAKE OUT #3 – Caring Enough to Invest

By saying “follow me”, Jesus was willing to share his life with this young man. He would have adopted him as another disciple, accepted his questions and confusion and invested the time and energy into helping him grow to maturity. When we invite people to follow Jesus, we need to be ready to invest in their lives (not just invite them to church). There is no cost-free evangelism.

TAKE OUT #4 – Taking Jesus Seriously re Riches

Jesus warns us repeatedly that riches and the desire to have things can choke the spiritual life out of us. He also teaches regularly that one practical way to reverse the trend is to give away, give away, give away.

Mark 10:23; 4:18-19; Acts 20:35

TAKE OUT #5 – Following Jesus to Death

The Gospel is not about a system but a Saviour. When we trust Jesus, he takes care of the rest. This doesn’t mean adding him to our lives, but giving our lives over to him.

Luke 9:23

CONCLUSION – What’s Your Death Issue?

Do you need to get beyond “Good Teacher” to “Good God”?
Maybe there is still “one thing you lack”?

Luke 9:23; 1 Corinthians 15:31

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email ask@themeetinghouse.ca

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

- Review Sunday’s message and notes. What most puzzles, bothers, or inspires you?
- Which “Take Out” applies most to your life? Why?

Look to the Book...

- Read **Mark 10:17-31**. A) Talk about what verse or idea stands out to you the most. B) How might someone try to use **verses 29-30** to advance a prosperity theology? How can we use the same verses to argue against prosperity teaching?
- Read the following passages about salvation through grace (whether or not the word “grace” is used)... **Luke 23:39-43; John 6:28-29; 17:3; Romans 3:21-24; 8:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Ephesians 2:8-10**. A) Talk about what verse or idea stands out to you the most. B) What is the relationship between faith and works in the life of a Christian? (Also see **James 2:14-26**.) C) Why would grace be a fitting way for God to prepare us for eternal life rather than being a “good” person?

So What?...

- Role Play...break into pairs. One person play the role of someone who believes good people go to heaven and bad people – who knows. The other person takes the Christian position. Try to make your point of view clear, use material from this week’s teaching about bridging the goodness gap. Take turns on each side of the conversation.
- How did you do with last week’s “homework” assignment? (Using questions to initiate a spiritual conversation.)

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Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching