



Jesus Christ, our All in all
CrossTalk's 25th Anniversary

26 Apr – 2 May, 2020

Jesus Christ, our Treasure, part 2

‘But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows’ 1 Timothy 6:9-10

Introduction

- † **Jesus Christ is the Treasure**
- † **It is wisdom, richness and victory to give up all our worldly possessions for Him**
- † **Remembering that all that we own is from God and for Him; *‘For what we possess is not personal property; it belongs to all’ Saint John Chrysostom***
- † ***‘God generously gives all things that are much more necessary than money, such as air, water, fire, the sun – all such things. All these things are to be distributed equally to all. ‘Mine’ and ‘thine’ – these chilling words which introduce innumerable wars into the world – should be eliminated from the Church’ Saint John Chrysostom (Acts 4:32-37)***

Is tithing still applicable in the New Testament? (Mk 12:41-44)

- † **To tithe means to give 10% to God, which the Lord required of His people (Lev 27:30-34)**
- † **In the New Testament, Christ asks to give all, 100%, to Him**

Jesus Counsels the Rich Young Ruler (Lk 18:18-30)

- † **Jesus Christ calls us personally, just as He called the rich man**

- † The rich young man wanted to be good but did not want God to interfere in his money, just as the majority of the Christians do
- † His love for the money prevented God's great plan to be fulfilled in his life; some say he might have been the 13th apostle
- † This man represents the majority of believers. They want Christ but not in all areas of their lives. They do not act as managers appointed by Christ over money God gave them, they act as owners
- † He built everlasting hopes in money which is temporal. After 37 years, in year 70, most probably the rich man lost everything when the Roman- Jewish war broke and the Romans destroyed much of the city of Jerusalem, including the Temple

There is so much gain in giving (*the story of Saint Peter, the Merciful*)

- † Christ promised that we will receive now in this time a hundredfold of all that we give away for His sake and the Gospel's, besides the eternal life in the age to come (*Mk 10: 29-31*)
- † If the rich man had trusted Christ he would have had blessings on earth and his throne next to God for all eternity
- † The apostles and disciples willingly gave up everything they had for Christ. '*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*' *Mt 6:21*

'But seek the Kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you' Lk 12:31

- † 'The principle runs through all life from top to bottom
- † Give up yourself, and you will find your real self
- † Lose your life and you will save it
- † Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favorite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end: submit with every fibre of your being, and you will find eternal life
- † Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours (St Peter the Merciful vs the Rich Young ruler)
- † Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead
- † Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay
- † But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in

- † Aim at Heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither' C S Lewis

The rich man and Lazarus (Lk 16:19-31)

- † The problem with the rich man is not that he is rich since all that he had is from God. The problem is that he overlooked Lazarus, the poor, and could not see him who was at his doorsteps
- † The rich man lost God's eternal blessings because he did not share his possessions with the poor. *'He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will pay back what he has given' Pro 19:17*
- † *'Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death' Pro 11:4*
- † *'He refused to feed Lazarus and thus starved his own soul*
- † *We are stewards, rather than owners of wealth. Not to use it moderately, distributing the rest to the poor is abuse' Saint John Chrysostom*
- † *'Fling wide your doors; give your wealth free passage everywhere! As a great river flows by a thousand channels through fertile country, so let your wealth run through many conduits to the homes of the poor. Wells that are drawn from flow the better; left unused, they go foul...Money kept standing idle is worthless; but moving and changing hands it benefits the community and brings increase...'*
Saint Basil the Great

Bibliography

Sanidopoulos, John. "Saint Peter the Merciful." Saint Peter the Merciful, January 1, 1970. <https://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2010/09/saint-peter-merciful-prototype-of.html>.

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'we live... as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things' 2 Corinthians 6:10

In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

God acts

- † The Father gave us all by giving us His Son

My reaction

✦ Is Christ my All in all? My only Treasure?

✦ Am I loving my brother and sister in Christ and sharing all

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Protestant Church in prayer

الصلاة الربانية
أبانا الذي في السموات
ليتقدس اسمك، ليأت
ملكوتك، لئلا نكون مشيئة
كما في السماء، كذلك
على الأرض، خبزنا
كفافتنا أعطنا اليوم
واغفر لنا ذنوبنا كما
تغفر نحن أيضاً،
للمذنبين إلينا
ولا تدخلنا في تجربة
لكن نجنا من الشرير
لأن لك الملك والقوة
والمجد، إلى الأبد.
أمين

قانون الايمان
نحن نؤمن بالله واحد، أب قادر على كل شيء، خالق السماء
والأرض، وكل ما يرى وما لا يرى، و برّيه واحد يسوع المسيح،
ابن الله الوحيد، المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور، إله من إله، نور
من نور، إله حق من إله حق، مولود غير مخلوق، ذو جوهر واحد
مع الأب، هو الذي به كان كل شيء، الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر
ومن أجل خلاصنا، نزل من السماء، وتجسد بالروح القدس من
مريم العذراء وصار إنساناً، وصُلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس
البنطي، وتألّم وقُبر وقام أيضاً في اليوم الثالث حسب الكتب،
وصعد إلى السماء، وهو جالس عن يمين الأب، وسيأتي أيضاً
بمجد، ليدين الأحياء والأموات، الذي ليس لملكه نهاية، ونؤمن
بالروح القدس، الربّ المحيي، المنتبّه من الأب والإبن، المسجود
له والمُجدّ مع الأب والإبن الذي تكلم بالأنبياء، ونعتقد بكنيسة
واحدة، مقدّسة، جامعة، رسولية، ونعترف بعمودية واحدة
لمغفرة الخطايا و ننتظر قيامة الموتى و حياة الدهر الآتي. أمين