

REFORMED CHURCH BELLVILLE: SUNDAY 13 JUNE 2010: MORNING SERVICE

Sing before: Psalm 84:6

Let us commence this meeting with God by declaring openly to one another and to God:

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Beloved grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the mighty working of God the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Psalm of praise: Psalm 103:11

Confession of faith: Apostolic

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into Hell, the third day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, a holy universal Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting

Amen.

After the reading of the Law we confess our guilt and pray for forgiveness and a new life before God with Psalm 119: 63

Law

Psalm: 119: 63

Prayer:

- **Doxology**
- **Worship**
- **Confession of sins**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Gratitude**
- **Prayer for the need of the congregation for the church, the authorities and the sinful world and appeal to God's promises.**
- **General prayer**
- **Enlightenment from the Holy Spirit for the sake of the ministry of the Word.**

Amen

Psalm 116:9

Scripture reading: Mark 10

Scripture text: Mark 10:21

And Jesus, looking on him and loving him, said, There is one thing needed: go, get money for your goods, and give it to the poor, and you will have wealth in heaven: and come with me. (Mark 10:21)

...: and come with Me.

This deals with calling. The young man is called upon to fully give his life to the Lord.

We are called on to fully serve the Lord in all facets of our lives:

- We must exercise fully worshipping God.
- Together with that we must maintain the ties of love to our neighbour in the ways the Lord expects it.
- Furthermore we must maintain the Kingdom of God in our congregations by keeping up the worshipping services and sacraments.
- Also, by material ways, we must see to the upkeep of the Lords' church.

Most of the times we are aware of what is expected from us, but because we sometimes have difficulty in complying, doubt arises within us.

- Are we still on the proper road?
- Are we doing the right things?
- What must we do in order to inherit eternal life?

This young man who approached the Lord on that day is thus a full mirror image of us.

- He has a status because he is rich – he has all the basic things we strive towards.
- But still he experiences doubt about the connection between his earthly kingdom and the Kingdom of the Lord.
- He feels that there is something that he has neglected to do.

The man is very worried about this matter.

- He is not busy drawing attention by means of a show and thus he falls to his knees facing the Lord.
- He asked: "Good Master, what have I to do so that I may have eternal life?"

The address of "Good Master" is not a very common form of address.

- It is a form of address used only at the highest exception, and then also used as a distinction towards a Rabbi.

The important matter lies in the fact that this utterance of the question revealed the faith-experience of this man.

- As seen from the outside his worship is on the par.
- But still he experienced uncertainty of finding eternal life through his law abidingness.

Put very practically: By his own power he has done many things in showing his faith and thereby earning eternal life.

- But he experienced something lacking.
- Something empty and unreachable lies in attaining your sanctification by yourself

The Lord's answer is very important, because to this young man He named a lot of negative commandments.

- But all everyone was relevant to the spiritual word:
- Do not be untrue in married life
- Do not put any one to death
- Do not give false witness
- Do not get money by deceit
- Give honour to your father and mother.

The man, because since childhood he externally did all these things, was very satisfied with the Lord's answer.

- On the exterior all appeared in order.
- It is at any rate very difficult to determine from the outside whether or not somebody contravened these commandments.

But what he missed was that by complying with these commandments he still did not offer up anything.

- Conversion and faith life does not only deal with what you don't do,
- but it also deals with that you in fact do.

Therefore the Lord puts this matter in perspective.

- Calling can also have a physical dimension, meaning that you have to offer up.

Therefore the Lord told him:

There is one thing needed: go, get money for your goods, and give it to the poor, and you will have wealth in heaven:

In the gospel of Luke it is recorded as such:.. sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you shall have treasure in Heaven. And come, follow Me. (Luke 18:22)

Suddenly a true faith-life took on a dimension disliked by this young Pharisee.

- The man came to a sudden realisation that in fact there were areas in which your faith and service to God could be tested because the poor of those times were badly cared for.
- He could do nothing else but deliver proof that he was not truly serving the Lord.
- He was not prepared to serve God without his wealth, nor with it.

Jesus told the man that he (the Pharisee) knew the law.

- It is as if a reproach was embodied in the fact that he should be acquainted with the complete contents of the Bible.
- He should thus be aware of what is written in Micah 6:8, namely that the Lord made clear to us what is good and and what is desired from us by the Lord; only doing what is right, and loving mercy, and walking without pride before our God.

What the Lord is telling him boils down to that he would never enter heaven should he not be willing to comply with his calling, as a believing child of God, in all territories.

In his case he was informed that the Kingdom of God also has a physical - a financial - aspect.

... there is one thing needed...

We must grant this young man the fact that at least he was passionate in his striving of living converted.

- Therefore the Lord pointed out to him that a true life of faith is a life wherein you keep the life with your neighbour proper,
- but at the same time seeing the complete Kingdom of God in the true light.

Here worshipping attains the facet that you should not firstly re-evaluate your own affairs and then, with the remainder, declare yourself willing to serve God.

Therefore the demand of selling everything was put to the rich young man.

- The test was to determine whether his faith and worshipping practice was true.
- The Lord wanted to bring home to him the realisation that he should not believe that a person would escape from the face of God by his haughtiness and bondage to money and enter heaven.
- Positively put: stripped from haughtiness, and stripped from the wrong way of being rich, we can reach a point where we can truly believe and live a life of conversion.

The Lord told this man that he lacked in one matter.

- The matter he lacked in was his viewpoint of earthly matters, which should have come into another perspective.

There is another example of this type of incorrect evaluation, which we will have to consider in aid of seeing this matter in the proper light. Do you still remember the history of Martha and Mary?

- Martha once complained to the Lord that Mary, rather than helping her serving the people, sat at Jesus' feet, listening to His teachings.
- Jesus then answered that one thing was required and that Mary chose it, and that it will not be taken away from her.
- This also dealt with the relationship between the spiritual and material.

This is without a doubt a terrain to which we, in our times, should pay attention.

- Sometimes we place too high an importance to physical and material matters like status and money.
- These are matters which should be present, but then applied in such a way that it serves as service to God and His Kingdom.

Is it not possibly true about some of us where we, the same as this man, are very willing to believe until it touches our purses or possessions?

- Have you ever considered how poorly we sometimes apply the service of poor relief?
- Take note of what we sometimes give to the collection gathering.
- How can you, yourself, be helped with so little?
- And still we may spend more on ourselves than this measly amount for tobacco, sweets, liquor and all sorts of other everyday matters.

It is also true that we often steer clear of other people, purely because they do not match our social status – this whilst there is nothing lacking to their faith. Should we deeply and truly consider such matters, the following question arises: Is our consideration and handling of these physical matters not possibly placing ourselves outside the Kingdom of God?

Maybe we need to reconsider how we handle these matters.

- Because these are the matters mentioned by the Lord to this young man.
- You are lacking one thing – but it is of utmost importance!

Feel welcome to compare Jesus' redemption work to this. Firstly consider how He lived.

- He also paid temple taxes
- and taught the believers to render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's
- and to God the things that are God's.

Furthermore He redemptively reaches to those in need: the lame, sick and blind.

- Those who are without status and have to beg for a living.
- He grants them healing.

Even consider his crucifixion.

- He dies for tangible things and helpless people.
- He dies so that, for us, a new heaven and new earth may arrive.
 - A new earth for us, who defiled the old earth and had it cursed.
 - And a new heaven for the angels who did not sin because the devil and his followers defiled the old heaven!
- For us there is even a new city – the New Jerusalem, where we will be moving about in the streets.
- The gateways to this city will be made out of precious stones.

The Lord Jesus died for people who have no status facing God.

- People received and born into sin – completely without status.
- People sinning continually and enlarging their taint facing God.

He gave His life and body so that God's wrath towards their sin could be punished onto Him – resulting in them being completely reconciled with God.

- These people will bodily be in heaven.
- They will be there as totally healed people – perfected.

Therefore we must also live in the signs of these matters.

- The earth and its matters must not get such a grip onto us that it controls and dictates our spiritual lives.
- Our daily conversion must also include reflection about the way we apply the material matters, entrusted to us by God, to the development of His Kingdom and to the benefit of our neighbour.

Consider the day the rich young man turned away from the Lord.

- He extolled in a life of conversion.
- But when he was tested whether his relationship towards the material and physical matters was such that he could serve God and his neighbour thereby, he failed the test.

From the history of the rich young man it is clear that the possessions of man can work in such a way with an unconverted that it severs the relationship between God and us.

Amen.

Closing prayer.

Closing Psalm: 66:7

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen

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13 June 2010
Scripture Modern King James Version