



Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

October 10, 2021

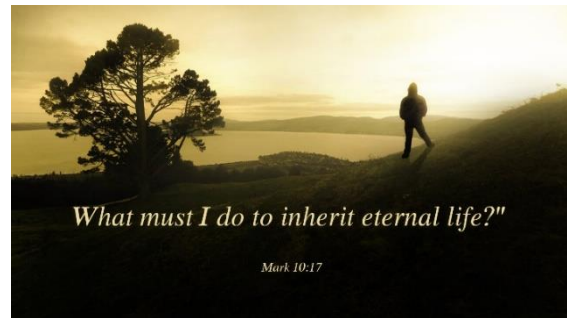
“As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked. “Only God is truly good.” *(Mark 10:17-18)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Freedom is not always what it appears to be. The man in Mark 10: 17-30 was free to be rich, but because of his riches he was not free to be happy. As free as he may have seemed to others, he knew in the depth of his heart that he was a slave, so he went away sad. Matthew describes him as very rich but his fear of letting go left him enslaved.

The message of the story is one that crosses time, cultures, and even religions. It is a message opposed to the promises of Madison Avenue. Socrates claimed happiness by never collecting that which he would be afraid to lose. Jesus has reminded us that the poor in spirit will inherit the earth. It may be good for us to put ourselves in the place of the Rich Man in Mark 10 and rewrite the story, at least the ending.



- **Join us this Sunday, Worship Service 9:30 A.M.** Pastor Doug Gast
- **Scripture Readings** Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
Mark 10:17-22

- **Happening Around St. James**

Children's Sunday School invites and welcomes all our young disciples
NEW Adult Forum underway (see details below) All are welcome.

- **Adult Bible Study lead by Tracy Guffey.** The title is “Waiting . . . a study on patience, hope, and trust as the Spirit works in our lives.” This is a timely topic that all of us will benefit from. Join us following worship.
- **New Members Class** We have scheduled a two-part new members class called Discovery. They will be on October 17th and 31st from 3-5 PM. We will get a deeper understanding of our Lutheran heritage and theology, and explore our NALC Core Values, and get acquainted with other St James folks. We will receive new members on All Saints Day November 7th. If you have questions or like to sign up for these classes just jot a note on the Connections Card, call the office, or contact me directly. This is exciting.
- **Beginning This Week I will be adding a day a week to my time here at St James.** Most weeks that will be Tuesday through Thursday. Most of the time Tuesdays will be an office day working from home. Feel free though to contact me any time.
- **Coffee With Council** Our next coffee with Council will be October 24th following our worship service that day. This is our time to share the work and the vision of the council

since the last time we met. It is also time to ask questions you may have. Our goal is clear and open communications.

- **Blood Drive is coming on Halloween.** Sunday October 31st 9:30 AM to 2 PM. Mark the date on your calendar. You are giving the gift of life. There will be a special gift for all who give. You can sign up in the narthex. Blessings to all.
- **All Saints Day . . .** November 7th. On All Saints Day we remember all the saints that have left the church militant on earth and joined the church triumphant in heaven. We specially remember those who have died in the past year. If you have a loved one who has died in the past 12 months, please write them down on the All Saints sheet in the narthex.
- **Bible Studies**
 - **Women's Bible Study** Mondays at 11 A.M.
 - **Men's Bible Study Gathers . . .** at 9 A.M. on Tuesdays.
 - **Additional Bible Study Opportunity.** . . . included with this weekly update is a bible study for you to use in the comfort of your home.
- **Looking for Volunteers . . .** As part of Care & Prayer ministry we have been thinking there may be a need to offer transportation to and from church to local residents in the Greenfield area. If you would be willing to serve in this way contact the church office or Linda Hess.
- **Grief Share . . . is going well.** This a 13 week course continues through November 3rd. This is a wonderful program of support for those who have lost a loved one and are struggling through the grief process. Time will be 6:30 PM every Wednesday. Questions? Contact Cindy Gregory.
- **Continue to Hold our Church in Prayer** as we await someone who can be a pastoral candidate. May the Holy Spirit move strong in our midst & in the heart of the person who will take the reins of pastoral leadership of St James. In the near future we will be sharing in a Bible Study on the Biblical understanding on the blessing and use of times of waiting.

Greetings from the HMD Council Here are prayer concerns to lift up to the throne of God as we join in prayer both individually and as a church family:

- Pray for the North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) faculty as they form pastors and church leaders for the North American Lutheran Church who will faithfully preach, teach, and live God's eternal truth, through Word and Sacrament, proclaiming Christ's cross and resurrection, and making disciples who will renew and grow the church in Christ's name.
- Pray for blessings for the Heartland Mission District (HMD) congregation of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn Indiana including Pastor Jonathan Hunter.
- Pray for blessings for the Heartland Mission District (HMD) mission of Christ is Lord Ministries and Pastors Salome and Divaker Pathak as they bring Jesus and proclaim the Gospel to people.
- Pray for guidance, support and strength from the Holy Spirit for HMD seminarian Ben Black and Pastor Chris Wendel who are both currently at Ft. Jackson in Chaplain Officers Training.

I ask for your prayers for wisdom, strength of leadership, vision, the building unity and discipleship as I take on the role of Dean of the HMD. Thank you all for your prayers. I can be contacted at pastorstjamesnalc@gmail.com, or by phone 317 727-0612, or calling the St James office.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Doug