

INTRODUCTION 引言

We are thankful to the Lord that six brothers and sisters will be baptized today. We will hear their testimonies in a moment. Every time we have a baptism we need to emphasize an important truth: we are saved by Jesus, but we are not saved by water. All the baptism candidates have received Jesus as their Savior and Lord before today. The misconception that a ceremony can grant salvation is deeply rooted in our mind. We are told that there is no free lunch. We must make an effort to earn something valuable. That is the mindset of the main character in our story.

EXPLANATION 解釋

1. Superficial Belief 膚淺的信仰

A young official went to Jesus with a question. The Lord used this opportunity to reveal a superficial belief in the man's mind. He asked Jesus: **“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”** He asked Jesus the requirements for going to heaven. But notice his choice of words. He wanted to “do” something to “inherit” eternal life. Jesus followed the thinking process of this man in His response. Jesus listed five of the Ten Commandments. We see the young man's answer in verse 21: **And he said, “All these I have kept from my youth.”** He was saying to Jesus: “Oh teacher, is that what it takes to go to heaven? It did it all!” The man and many Jews of his time thought keeping the Law could buy their way into heaven. Obeying the Law is unable to save anyone. God is not asking for a passing grade. He demands perfection from us. Moreover, God does not only consider our actions. He also examines our hearts. Thinking about sinning and committing sins are the same to Him. Most modern people have the attitude this young man had. They believe that they will go to heaven because they are good people. They are law-abiding citizens. Others may say that they grew up in a Christian home, they go to church every Sunday and they were even baptized. Are those good works not good enough? But we do not set the rules. God does! He is the final Judge of our life. We need to break this superficial belief that good people will all go to heaven. We will talk more about God's standard in the next point. But here, we can learn a good technique from Jesus about sharing the gospel. He let the man ask a question first. We must listen before we speak. Every person has a different life circumstance. They may be struggling with loneliness, burdened by scars from the past, suffering from tensions in a relationship or facing anxiety about the future. Do not rush to present your five-point gospel outline yet. You can begin by asking simple questions such as: “How are you feeling?” “What troubles you recently?” or “Tell me your story.” Allow seeker friends to share their needs. Then show them from the Bible that God is our help. From there, connect to the sin problem that we all have. State that Jesus is the only solution God has prepared for us.

2. Sacrificial Behavior 犧牲的行為

The young ruler thought he was qualified to enter heaven. Jesus exposed his superficial belief. Obeying the Law cannot save anyone. What Jesus asks for is a sacrificial behavior. He challenged the man in verse 22: ...**“One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”** The three demands are to sell, distribute and follow. While the young man’s conduct was commendable, his heart was questionable. We see his reaction in verse 23: **But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.** He was unwilling to let go of his money. He was not ready to follow Jesus either. Jesus focused on the core issue. What did the man love the most? God or his money? Jesus asked the man to give up what he had been relying on, and from now on put his trust in Jesus. Today, the Lords’ demands for us remain the same. We must surrender our mind, emotion and will to Jesus. Below is a typical response I get from seeker-friends. First, I ask them: “Do you have any question about the gospel message?” They reply: “Everything is clear to me.” Second: “Is your heart touched by Jesus’ love?” They answer: “Jesus indeed showed His great love on the cross!” Third: “Are you willing to trust Jesus and to follow Him?” They respond: “Let me think about it.” Commitment to the Lord is the real sign of salvation. Jesus may not ask you to give up your belongings. But He expects you to turn in the ownership of what you have. Those are the things that you find security in. Perhaps it is your education, career or money. He does not need your stuff. He is asking for your heart. Letting go is hard because all along we like to take charge. We feel safe when we can control our life. But being a Jesus follower is to say to Him: “All Yours!” We let Him direct our life. That actually takes away a lot of stress. We know that He will watch over us. When we have a success, it is His blessing. When we are confused, He will show us the way. When we suffer setbacks, He will encourage us. When we go astray, He will lead us back. Our life is the most secure in the hands of the Lord.

CONCLUSION 結論

Jesus invalidated the idea that we can do something to be saved. We cannot do enough good works to reach God’s demand of perfection. We cannot do anything to remove our sins either. Salvation is about our mindset. We must be willing to surrender everything to Jesus. We must be ready to follow Him wholeheartedly. Salvation is a free gift because Jesus had paid the cost of sins for us. In response, the Lord asks us give up everything for Him.

INTRODUCTION 引言

感謝主今天有六位弟兄姐妹要接受浸禮。稍後我們將聽到他們的見證。每次我們舉行浸禮時，我們都需要強調一個重要的真理：我們是靠耶穌得救的，但我們不是靠水得救的。所有六位要接受浸禮的人在今天之前都已接受耶穌為他們的救主和生命的主。一個儀式可以帶來救恩的錯誤觀念在我們的腦海中根深蒂固。我們都知道天下沒有免費的午餐。我們必須努力賺取有價值的東西。這就是我們故事中主角的心態。

EXPLANATION 解釋

1. Superficial Belief 膚淺的信仰

一位年輕的官員向耶穌提出了一個問題。主利用這個機會揭示了這個人心中膚淺的信仰。他問耶穌：「我該做什麼事才可以承受永生？」他問耶穌去天堂的條件。但請注意他的用詞。他想「做」一些事情來「承受」永生。耶穌的回應順著這個人的思路。耶穌舉出十誡中的五條誡命。我們在第 21 節看到年輕人的回答：那人說：「這一切我從小都遵守了。」他對耶穌說：「老師啊，這就是去天堂的條件嗎？這一切我都做到了！」這個人和當時的許多猶太人都認為遵守律法可以換取天堂的門票。遵守律法無法救任何人。神不只要求及格，祂乃是要我們完美。而且，神不僅看我們的行為，祂也察驗我們的心。在神看來，犯罪的意念就等於犯罪的行為。大多數現代人都有這個年輕人的態度。他們相信他們會去天堂，因為他們認為自己是個好人。他們是守法的公民。其他人也許會說，他們是在基督徒家庭長大的，他們每個星期天都去教會，甚至接受了浸禮。難道那些行為還不夠好嗎？問題是我們無法制定規則。是神定下標準！祂是我們生命的終極的審判官。我們需要打破這種膚淺的信仰，以為好人都會上天堂。我們在下一點會講到神的標準。但在這裡，我們可以向耶穌學習傳福音的技巧。祂讓那個人先提出問題。我們必須先聽後說。每個人都有不同的生活遭遇。他們可能感到孤單，承受著過去的傷痕，處理緊張的人際關係，或面對將來的憂慮。先不要急著分享你的五點福音大綱。你可以先問他們一些簡單的問題，例如：「你的心情如何？」「你最近有什麼煩惱嗎？」或「請告訴我你的故事。」讓福音朋友分享他們的需求。然後引用聖經告訴他們神是我們的幫助。從而連繫到我們每個人都有罪的問題。耶穌是神為我們預備的唯一解決方案。

2. Sacrificial Behavior 犧牲的行為

那位少年的官以為自己有資格進入天堂。耶穌揭露了他膚淺的信仰。遵守律法無法使人得救。耶穌所要求的是一種犧牲的行為。祂在第 22 節向那個人發出挑戰：...「你還缺少一件：要變賣你一切所有的，分給窮人，就必有財寶在天上；你還要來跟從我。」三個要求是變賣、分給和跟從。雖然這個年輕人的行為值得稱讚，但他的內心值得懷疑。我們在第 23 節看到他的反應：他聽見這話，就甚憂愁，因為他很富足。他不願意放棄自己的金錢。他也沒有準備好跟隨耶穌。耶穌針對核心問題。那個人最愛的是什麼？神還是他的錢？耶穌要求他放棄一直以來所依靠的，然後從現在開始信靠耶穌。今天主對我們的要求維持不變。我們必須在思想、情感和意志上降服於耶穌。以下是我從福音朋友聽到的典型回應。首先，我會問他們：「你們對福音信息有什麼疑問嗎？」他們回答說：「一切對我來說都很清楚。」第二：「你的心被耶穌的愛感動了嗎？」他們回答說：「耶穌在十字架上確實彰顯了祂偉大的愛！」第三：「你願意相信耶穌並跟隨祂嗎？」他們回答：「我再想想看吧！」對主的委身是得救的真正證明。耶穌不一定要求你捨棄你的財物，但是祂期望你交出一切的擁有權。那些是你能找到安全感的東西。也許是你的學問、事業或金錢。祂不需要你的東西，祂要求的是你的心。放手是很困難的，因為我們一直以來都喜歡控制一切。當我們能夠掌握自己的生命時，我們就會感到安全。但作為耶穌的跟隨者就是要對祂說：「一切都歸祢！」我們讓耶穌來帶領我們的生活。這實際上消除了很多壓力。我們知道祂會看顧我們。當我們獲得成就時，那是祂的祝福。當我們迷茫時，祂會為我們指引道路。當我們遭遇挫折時，祂會鼓勵我們。當我們偏行己路時，祂會帶我們回來。我們的生命在祂的手中是最安全的。

CONCLUSION 結論

耶穌否定了我們可以做些什麼來得救的想法。我們無法做足夠的好事來滿足神完美的要求。我們也無法做任何事情來消除我們的罪。救恩是關乎於我們的意願。我們必須願意將一切交託給耶穌。我們也必須願意全心全意地跟隨祂。救恩是一份免費的禮物，因為耶穌已經為我們付出了罪的代價。作為回應，主要求我們為祂付上一切。