

Sermon講道信息
March三月 12, 2023
Sacrifice犧牲
Matthew 馬太福音19:16-30

James Calvert was a British Methodist missionary in the nineteenth century sent to cannibals on the Fiji Islands.

詹姆斯·卡爾弗特 (James Calvert) 是十九世紀的英國衛理公會傳教士，被派往斐濟群島的食人族。

The story goes that when he, his young wife, and two other missionaries landed on one of the islands, the captain of the ship that brought them urged them to turn back.

故事是這樣的，當他和他年輕的妻子和另外兩名傳教士登陸其中一個島上時，帶他們的船長敦促他們回頭。

“You will die, your wife and the men with you will die, if you stay here,” the captain said.

船長說：「如果你留在這裡，你會死的，你的妻子和你們都會死」

James Calvert paused for a moment.

詹姆斯·卡爾弗特停頓了一會兒。

And then he replied, “We died before we came here.”

然後他回答說：「我們在來這裡之前就已經死了。」

We’re almost half-way through our Lent Prayer Project.

我們的大齋期禱告計劃幾乎完成了一半。

Many of us are following this as we approach Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

當我們接近耶穌受難日和復活主日時，我們許多人參加這禱告旅程。

Each week we have a different theme, taken from sections of Matthew’s Gospel.

每周我們都有一個不同的主題，取自馬太福音的不同經文。

This week, we look at a conversation between a rich, young man and Jesus, and the conversation between Jesus and his disciples that follows.

本周，我們來看看一個富有的年輕人和耶穌之間的對話，以及接下來耶穌和他的門徒之間的對話。

This week we ask what it means to sacrifice, to be prepared, like James Calvert, to surrender all to Jesus.

本周我們問犧牲意味著什麼，像詹姆斯·卡爾弗特一樣預備自己將一切降服於耶穌。

Let’s begin by looking at this conversation with the rich young ruler.

讓我們先來看看與這位輕年財主的對話。

This is recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke’s Gospels.

這記錄在馬太福音、馬可福音和路加福音中。

Matthew tells us that the rich man who comes to Jesus with his question is young.

馬太告訴我們，帶著問題來到耶穌面前的財主很年輕。

Luke tells us that he's a ruler.

路加告訴我們，他是一個官。

Whatever else can be said about him, he is everything many people aspire to.

不管怎樣形容他，他就是許多人渴望的化身。

He's young, he's wealthy, he's respected.

他年輕，富有，受別人尊重。

Perhaps he is a successful businessman.

也許他是一個成功的商人。

Perhaps he's a successful community leader.

也許他是一位成功的社區領袖。

Perhaps he is a successful politician.

也許他是一位成功的政治家。

Perhaps he comes from a successful family.

也許他來自一個成功的家庭。

But his success hides a deep concern.

但他的成功隱藏著一種深深的擔憂。

Whatever the reasons for his success, he comes with a question that so many people ask:

無論他成功的原因是什麼，他帶著一個很多人都會問的問題而來：

"What good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

「我該做甚麼善事才能得永生？」

To understand the importance of this question, let's look at the previous verses.

要理解這個問題的重要性，讓我們看看前面的經文。

Jesus has just said that "the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

耶穌剛剛說：「因為在天國的正是這樣的人。」

What he means is to be part of God's Kingdom, receiving Jesus as Lord and Saviour, means living in childlike obedience.

他的意思是要進上帝的國是要接受耶穌為主和救主，意味著生活在孩子般的順服中。

It's obedience that trusts Jesus, no matter what.

無論如何，順服就是信靠耶穌。

When my wife and I were seeking the Lord about coming to Canada, the decision for me was simple.

當我和妻子求問主是否來加拿大時，我的決定很簡單。

The Lord told me in 1999 that my years of pastoring in the UK were ending.

主在1999年告訴我，我在英國的牧養歲月即將結束。

So, I was excited to begin serving Jesus in Canada.

所以，我很高興開始在加拿大服事耶穌。

Catherine, my wife, had a more difficult journey to make.

我的妻子凱薩琳(Catherine)經歷了一段更加艱難的旅程。

She worked as an administrator in a Fire Hall.

她在消防局裡擔任行政管理。

She served as a local government youth leader and counsellor.

她擔任地方政府青年領袖和輔導員。

With a friend, she had just started a small software company.

她和一個朋友剛剛開了一家小型軟體公司。

She had meaningful and rewarding jobs in England.

她在英國有一份有意義和有價值的工作。

And, of course, we both had close family and dear friends.

當然，我們都有親密的家人和親愛的朋友。

I have told you that years before I knew we'd come to Canada, the Lord had told Catherine that one day she and I would serve him in this country.

我告訴過你，在我知道要來加拿大前幾年，主告訴凱薩琳，有一天她和我會在這個國家服事他。

Catherine did not tell me the Lord had said this.

凱薩琳沒有告訴我主這樣跟她說。

But she did tell me, some years later, why the Lord told her before he told me.

但幾年後，她確實告訴我，為什麼主在告訴我之前告訴了她。

The Lord knew that she needed time to wrestle with the decision.

主知道她需要時間來與這個決定搏鬥。

She will tell you, her prayer in the years before I knew, was this:

她會告訴你，在我知道之前的幾年裡，她的禱告是這樣的：

"Lord, I will argue with you about going to Canada, just do not let me win the argument."

「主啊，去加拿大的事我會和你爭論，只是不要讓我贏。」

She knew the right response was childlike obedience, but there was a cost.

她知道正確的回應是孩子般的服從，但這是有代價的。

Moving to Canada for her meant submission to Jesus' Lordship.

她搬到加拿大意味著順服耶穌的旨意。

It was an act of surrender.

這是一種降服的行動。

It was sacrifice.

這是犧牲。

The rich young ruler in his heart and mind and devotion is not there.

在年輕財主的心裡和思想根本不存在忠誠。

It's not obedience he seeks; he's not coming with childlike trust.

他尋求的不是順服；他不是帶著孩子般的信任來的。

What he seeks are guarantees.

他是來尋求的是保證。

He wants to know what is required to satisfy God.

他想知道如何滿足神的要求。

"God gives eternal life," he thinks, "so what good thing must I do to get this from God."

他想：「上帝賜予永生，所以我必須做什麼善事才能從上帝那裡得到它。」

The conversation that follows is a masterful, but gracious, exploration of this man's motives by Jesus.

接下來的對話是耶穌對這個人的動機的巧妙但仁慈的探索。

When Jesus says, "There's only One who's good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments,"

當耶穌對他說：「只有一位是善良的。你若要進入永生，就該遵守誡命。」

what he's asking of the man is this: "Why are you making this about your achievement, when it's actually about your relationship with the one who is good?"

他對這個男人的要求是：「你為什麼要把這當成你的成就，而這實際上是關於你與善良的那一位的關係？」

And how are you living the truth of that relationship?"

你又是如何活出這段關係的真相的呢？」

Jesus isn't interested in what the man does.

耶穌對這個人所作的並不感興趣。

Jesus is interested in why he does it and for whom he does it.

耶穌感興趣的是他為什麼這樣做，以及他為誰做。

At this point, let me say this:

在這一點上，讓我這樣說：

if you believe that what you do will convince God to welcome you into eternal life, I need to tell you that it will not.

如果你相信你所作的會說服上帝歡迎你進入永生，我需要告訴你，是不會。

And there's a very good reason why it won't.

有一個很好的理由為什麼不能。

God is holy and utterly pure.

神是聖潔的，是完全純潔的。

His eternal Kingdom is holy and utterly pure.

他永恆的國度是聖潔的，完全純潔的。

To enter his presence for eternity means we must be holy and utterly pure.

要永遠進入他的同在意味著我們必須聖潔和完全純潔。

And guess what? We're not.

你猜怎麼著？我們並不是。

The Bible is very clear on this.

聖經對此非常清楚。

We all have sinned and fall short of God's glory, says Romans 3:23.

羅馬書3:23說：我們都犯了罪，虧缺了上帝的榮耀。

There's nothing we can do to make ourselves so holy and so pure to be accepted by God.

我們無能為力，使自己如此聖潔，如此純潔，好讓上帝接納。

You could be as good as is humanly possible for the rest of your life and still not be as holy or as pure as God.

你可以在餘生中盡人類所能做到的最好，但仍然不像上帝那樣聖潔或純潔。

There's no way that doing good makes us good enough to enter God's eternal presence.

行善不可能使我們足夠好，進入上帝永恆的同在。

And God's not going to lower his standard of holiness or purity just to let us in.

上帝不會為了讓我們進去而降低他的聖潔或純潔的標準。

If he did this, he'd compromise his own standards of holiness and purity.

如果他這樣做，他會妥協自己的聖潔和純潔標準。

To ask, like the rich young ruler, if there's any good thing I can do to gain access to eternal life is to try to barter with God, to see if there's a way in without being completely holy or pure.

像年輕財主一樣，問是否可以做任何善事來獲得永生，那就是嘗試與上帝交換，看看是否有辦法進入，而不是完全聖潔或純潔。

But we cannot barter with God.

但我們不能與上帝交換。

So, what can be done?

那麼，我們能做什麼呢？

Nothing by us; everything by God.

我們什麼都不能做；一切只是靠上帝。

This is why God sent his Son, Jesus Christ.

這就是為什麼上帝差遣他的兒子耶穌基督。

God knew we couldn't be holy, but Jesus is utterly holy and pure.

上帝知道我們不可能是聖潔的，但耶穌是完全聖潔和純潔的。

Jesus takes our imperfection (sin) and he dies in our place on the cross.

耶穌承擔了我們的不完美（罪），他代替我們死在十字架上。

And magnificently, wonderfully, Jesus' holiness and purity can become ours.

奇妙地，耶穌的聖潔和純潔可以成為我們的。

A transfer takes place, not because we deserve it or are entitled to it, but because God gives this to us.

轉移發生，不是因為我們應得或有權得到它，而是因為上帝賜給了我們。

It's called grace – it's God's free gift.

這叫做恩典——這是上帝免費的禮物。

He loves us so much that he makes it possible for us to have eternal life.

他如此愛我們，以至於他使我們有可能得到永生。

The only way to enter eternal life is to trust in what Jesus has done for you at the cross.

進入永生的唯一方法是相信耶穌在十字架上為你所做的一切。

So now, trusting in Jesus, we are as pure and holy in God's sight as Jesus is.

所以現在，信靠耶穌，我們在上帝的眼中就和耶穌一樣純潔聖潔。

It's what is called "being justified"

這就是所謂的「稱義」

– declared righteous before God because we have faith in Christ's death for our sin.

– 在神面前得稱為義，因為我們相信基督為我們的罪而死。

The sad truth is many people think God must accept us because of the good things we do; because they don't want a free gift.

可悲的事實是，許多人認為上帝必須接受我們，因為我們做了善事；因為他們不想要免費的禮物。

We want God to owe us something, rather than admit we have nothing and we are totally dependent upon his grace.

我們希望上帝欠我們一些東西，而不是承認我們一無所有，我們完全依靠他的恩典。

If you are here this morning thinking that doing good gives you a lever to bargain with God for eternal life, please understand you are still lost.

如果你今天早上在這裡認為行善給了你一個手段，讓你與上帝討價還價而獲得永生，請理解你仍然是迷失的。

Admit you have no right to eternal life and trust in Jesus

承認你沒有權利獲得永生並信靠耶穌

– and you'll receive eternal life. You will be saved.

– 你會得到永生。你會得救的。

So what about the rich young man?

那麼年輕財主呢？

I expect he is used to getting what he wants.

我相信他習慣於得到他想要的東西。

He's used to controlling the decision-making process.

他習慣於控制決策過程。

He's used to commanding respect.

他習慣於贏得尊重。

He's used to deciding a course of action.

他習慣於決定行動方案。

What he's not used to is having his motives, his thoughts, his heart examined.

他不習慣的是檢查他的動機，他的想法，他的心。

You see, it's important to understand that this passage is not about wealth or riches.

你看，重要的是要明白這段經文不是關於財富。

It's about our true motives:

這是關於我們真正的動機：

why do we do what we do and for whom do we do it?

我們為什麼要做我們所做的事情，我們為誰做？

Do we do what we do because our lives have been transformed by Jesus and are being conformed to the way of Jesus?

我們做我們所做的事情，是因為我們的生命被耶穌改變了，並且正在效法耶穌的道路嗎？

Do we do what we do supremely for Jesus?

我們是否單單為耶穌而做這件事呢？

If wealth gets in the way of this, then we need to sell our possessions, give to the poor, and follow Jesus.

如果財富阻礙了這一點，那麼我們需要賣掉我們的財產，給窮人，跟隨耶穌。

But, the truth is, if anything gets in the way of Jesus' Lordship of our lives, then Jesus asks us what really matters: those things or him?

但是，事實是，如果有什麼東西阻礙了耶穌對我們生命的主權，那麼耶穌會問我們什麼才是真正重要的：那些東西還是他？

This is what my wife had to work through.

這是我妻子必須解決的問題。

She knew she must surrender to Jesus and she knew she would.

她知道她必須降服於耶穌，她知道她會的。

What she needed was that conversation with Jesus that renewed her from within to make that decision.

她需要的是與耶穌的對話，好讓她的內心得更新來做出這個決定。

And this is where the rest of this chapter takes us.

這就是本章其餘部分帶我們去的地方。

There is a cost, the way of surrender, that following Jesus means.

這是有代價的，跟隨耶穌意味著要降服。

Those who place their allegiance and trust in something or someone other than Jesus will struggle to surrender.

那些效忠和信任耶穌以外的人或事物將掙扎不能投降。

It's as hard as trying to put the largest land mammal in ancient Palestine

這就像試圖在古代巴勒斯坦使最大的陸地哺乳動物

– the camel – through the smallest hole they knew of – the eye of a needle.

– 駱駝 – 穿過所知道的最小的洞 – 針眼一樣困難。

So, if it's impossible to enter God's eternal presence – to be saved

所以，如果不可能進入上帝永恆的同在——就是得救

– by relying upon our successes and achievements – our “doing good” – then how can anyone be saved?

– 依靠我們的成功和成就 – 「我們的善行」 – 那麼如何能得拯救？

Well, we've already answered this.

是的，我們已經回答了這個問題。

What is impossible for us, is possible for God.

「在人這是不能，在上帝凡事都能。」

God's Son Jesus pays the price for our sin on the cross.

上帝的兒子耶穌在十字架上為我們的罪付出了代價。

But is it worth it?

但這值得嗎？

Is such sacrifice worth it?

這樣的犧牲值得嗎？

Is surrendering to Jesus worth it?

降服於耶穌值得嗎？

That's Peter's question in verse 27: "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?"

這是彼得在27節中提出的問題：「我們已經撇下一切跟從你了，我們會得到甚麼呢？」

It's the question others ask in Scripture.

這是其他人在聖經中問的問題。

In Psalm 73, Asaph, the author, looks at the lifestyles of those who do not believe.

在詩篇73篇中，作者亞薩觀察了那些不信的人的生活方式。

They seem to have so much in their favour: health, happiness, honour, success.

他們似乎有很多東西對他們有利：健康、快樂、榮譽、成功。

How come their lives go so well; how come the faithful suffer?

為什麼他們的生活如此順利；信徒為什麼受苦？

I expect if we are honest, all of us have at some point said to God, "It's not fair!"

如果我們誠實的話，我們所有人都在某個時候對上帝說過：「這不公平！」

About three weeks ago, my wife and son were driving back from a medical appointment.

大約三周前，我的妻子和兒子見完醫生開車回家。

They were rear-ended.

他們被後面的車撞了。

This was shortly before my wife had to fly to the UK with my daughter.

那是在我妻子不得不和我女兒一起飛往英國之前不久。

We were already under lots of pressure – and now this.

我們已經承受了很大的壓力——現在面對這個。

I must admit I felt like saying to the Lord,

我必須承認，我想對主說：

"I need this added pressure about as much as I need a comb! Why, Lord?"

「我需要這種額外的壓力，就像我需要梳子一樣！主啊，為什麼？」

But, we get up and carry on.

但是，我們站起來繼續前進。

So what does Jesus say when we ask if it's worth surrendering to him?

那麼，當我們問是否值得降服於他時，耶穌會怎麼說呢？

What does he say when we go through those times saying, "It's not fair!"

當我們經歷那些時候說「這不公平」時，他會怎麼說呢！

What does he say when we choose the way of obedience over the way of success?

當我們選擇順服的道路而不是成功的道路時，他會怎麼說呢？

He directs our attention to the hope we have

他會引導我們注意我們擁有的希望

– he points us to his eternal Kingdom.

– 他向我們指向他永恆的國度。

This is what verses 28-30 mean.

這就是28-30節的意思。

The day will come, he says, when he will be on his throne, sovereign over all things.

他說，那日將到，就是他登上他的寶座，掌管一切。

When all things will be renewed.

當萬物更新時。

And then, we will look back on our lives and say, “It was worth it.”

然後，我們會回顧我們的生活並說：「這值得的。」

Jesus has given us more than we could imagine or ask for.

耶穌賜給我們的遠遠超過我們所想像的。

He’s brought us into his family.

他把我們帶進他的家中。

And with one another, and countless others who have loved him throughout history, we will rejoice forever.

與彼此，以及歷史上無數愛過他的人，我們將永遠歡欣鼓舞。

When we wonder if it's worth it, Jesus tells us to “look up, look what’s coming.

當我們懷疑這是否值得時，耶穌告訴我們要「抬頭看，看看將要發生的事情。」

It’s worth surrendering to me because the best is yet to come.”

值得向我降服，因為最好的還沒有到來。

James Calvert did not die on the Fiji Islands.

詹姆斯·卡爾弗特沒有死在斐濟群島。

He mastered the local languages and quickly became highly respected.

他掌握了當地語言，並很快受到高度尊重。

He became friends with tribal kings, even able to mediate in wars between tribes.

他與部落國王成為朋友，甚至能夠在部落之間的戰爭中進行調解。

He helped to produce 5,000 copies of the first complete edition of the Fijian Bible.

他幫助製作了5000本斐濟聖經的第一版完整版。

Later, he served in South Africa where he worked tirelessly to bring native South Africans and white settlers together, often incurring the wrath of whites.

後來，他在南非服事，在那裡他孜孜不倦地工作，將南非原住民和白人定居者聚集在一起，經常招致白人的憤怒。

He was one of the first in South Africa to insist on greater employment opportunities for native South Africans.

他是南非最早堅持為南非本土人提供更多就業機會的人之一。

Over the years, his travels made him friends in Tonga, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Europe, and the United States.

多年來，他在不同地方服事使他在湯加、紐西蘭、澳大利亞、南非、歐洲和美國都有朋友。

He died on March 8, 1892 in England, just over 131 years ago.

他於 1892 年 3 月 8 日在英國去世，距今僅 131 年多。

Upon his death, it was said that few people made more friends than James Calvert;

據說他去世后，很少有人比詹姆斯·卡爾弗特結交更多的朋友；

and this the man who once said, “We died before we came here.”

這個人曾經說過，「我們在來到這裡之前就已經死了。」

Jesus has done it all for you.

耶穌已經為你成就了這一切。

Don't get trapped into thinking you can impress God with your goodness

不要以為你可以用你的良善打動上帝

or convince God to give you eternal life because of your good works.

或者說服上帝因為你的善行而給你永生。

You can't. But trust in his grace.

你不能。但要信靠他的恩典。

The sacrifices that the Lord will ask of you, the surrender to Jesus that is the way of holiness, will be worth it.

主要求你做出的犧牲就是降服於耶穌，這是聖潔的道路，都是值得的。

You died before you came here. Life awaits.

你來這裡之前就已經死了。生命在等待著。