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Text: Matthew 11:2-15
Date: December 10-11th, 2016
Setting: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

What do you invest in?

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What do you invest in? What is it that you want to work on and travel to see? Cassie and I love seeing National Parks. Not only the large parks that most people know such as Glacier National Park and others like Yosemite, and Yellowstone. There are smaller historical sites that mark places of significance in the United States. Cassie has the National Parks Passport Book. The book has all these places and includes a place to stamp the day that you visit each one. Our travels have become how many of these places can we visit, as well as how many states and state capitals can we cross off the list. I think visiting them together, we are up to 11 at this point, so far. These are things we have invested in.

As we edge closer and closer to Christmas, have you finalized plans? What are you invested in? Will family come to see you or will you go to see family? Will you fly or drive? So many questions that still affect us today in the 21st century. With all our technology of maps and estimated time of arrival, we still have questions. However we go, by plane, train, or automobile, we work to get somewhere. How will you invest your time this Christmas season? What you invest in shows what you care about.

Our Gospel lesson for today talks about traveling to see something. People invested their time and resources to go out to the desert so see this man they heard stories about. This man wasn't wearing nice, fancy clothes. We don't go out of our way to find someone wearing less than average clothes. Our culture flock to the newest fashion craze. People invest time to go to

fashion shows to see what to wear. People flock to the movie stars and singers who have the money to afford the extravagant clothes. To see politicians wearing the nicest things that money can buy.

So what was it that the people were seeking when they went to find John? Back in the time of Jesus people had to invest time to travel and find what they were looking for. There was no asking Google who John was or give directions to help you find him. The action of going out to the desert was investing much. These people invested time to see who this John character was. They wanted to see what he was about. King Herod had become invested in what John was about when John preached against his sin earlier in Matthew. King Herod threw John in prison. What you invest in shows what you care about.

What do you invest the most into? Do you invest in your family? Do you invest in your job? Do you invest in the sport's team you follow? Investments are not limited to financial talk but how we spend our time and abilities that God has given us. An investment can be so small as googling a question to find an answer. Once we know the answer, we most likely forget it. If we forget it then we really didn't invest much into it, did we? Sometimes the things that invest in are not the things we should be. Sometimes we invest in things only for ourselves for selfish reasons. We fail to invest in our relationships with others as we should. What you invest in shows what you care about.

John invested in Jesus, even while in prison. When he sat in that prison cell wondering if Jesus was the person he had been talking about. As John probably thought, "Why am I in here when the One to Come, Thee One to Come was out walking the streets?" This is often parodied by many films and shows when the main character is sick or unable to see the star they have wanted to see. The music artist or movie star that is coming to town. But they can't go and the

wonder why it is that they don't get to see them when they are in the area. John would have been even more frustrated on account of it was because of his preaching about Jesus that put him in prison. So, he sent his followers to Jesus to see if this was the guy that was to come. Jesus, are you it? Or should we invest in another that is to come? Jesus could have given a simple yes or no but he didn't. Jesus answered saying who he invested in. When Jesus invested in the blind they received their sight. Jesus invested in the lame and they walked. Jesus invested in the lepers and they were cleansed. Jesus invested in the deaf so they could hear. Jesus invested in the dead and they were raised to life. Jesus invested His time in these people's lives.

What Jesus was doing made sense to the people that followed Him. People would have remembered portions of Scripture that foretold the coming Messiah. Isaiah 35:5 states, "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped." The blind see and the deaf hear. The next verse in Isaiah states, "then shall the lame man leap like a deer." The lame walk. What Jesus was doing matches up with what was said in Isaiah.

He invested the time to come to earth to be born of a virgin. To grow up and live a life interacting with us sinners, all the while withstanding temptation himself. He never had to do this. He got to do this, for us. Jesus invested his very life on the cross for you. Where he died for your sins. Died for the times that you invest in your own selfish desires instead of God. Died so that you could have life with him.

In response to what Christ has done for us, invested in us, we are able to invest in our faith. We have been given many opportunities to make further investments in our faith. This includes hearing God's word here in his sanctuary and partaking of his Body and Body in with and under the bread and wine at the Lord's Table. We can invest our time in the morning before

work with short reading of the Bible. Perhaps after the evening meal, we can study God's Word that he has given us to use. What you invest in shows what you care about.

He invested and continues to invest in your life.

As followers of Christ we are given so many ways to invest in the world that God has given us. Let us not forget to invest in the One who invested his life on the cross dying for us and rising again so that we can be with him. We have the forgiveness of sins. What Christ invested in showed what He cared about. You. Amen.

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine... to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21