

Luke 12:22-34

“Little Faith”

7th Sunday af. Pentecost

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Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

July 12, 2015

Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God, our Heavenly Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Dear Christian Friends:

[Introduction]

It's the moment you are not waiting for.

Sitting there in that uncomfortable gown...

you know the one... the one that always exposes your backside.

You are sitting there and the doctor says... the surgeon will be here in 20 minutes.

The doctor says... surgery.

The doctors says... infection.

The doctor says... diabetes.

The doctors says...

[Little Faith]

Jesus the doctor says... “*little faith.*”

Jesus looks at you... examines you... and says “*little faith.*”

He puts us in His MRI.

And He diagnoses us with laser beam sharpness. “*O you of little faith.*”

Well, He's the Lord. And He's right.

Jesus diagnoses us with “*little faith*” and we really are people of “*little faith.*”

It's time that we finally admit it. We are “*little faith*” people.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

(Heb 11:1)

We choose our wisdom over God's wisdom.

We trust our sight over God's sight.

We've given our hearts to our “*treasures*” over God.

“*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*”

[*Hearts*]

Our hearts should belong to God.

But we've given them material things.

Material things that make all kinds of sweet promises
but rather bring us all kinds of anxiety and worry.

The biggest issues in our lives are ME-focused.

"What about my life?

Isn't everything about me?

What am I going to eat and drink?

What am I going to wear?

After all I've got to look like...

you know... those folks on television... those folks on the Cosmo covers!"

And all of that takes money.

And so money becomes the biggest false god of all.

The idolatrous life of chasing after "stuff" is a 24/7/365 rat race.

A grueling competition.

To have the very best.

The hottest.

The latest.

We justify our existence by how much "stuff" we accumulate.

And you know.... You can't take it with you!

Our false gods of "Stuff, Wealth & Toys" give us no Sabbath rest.

And so the burn out and breakdown,
abuse increases, divorce escalates.

Lives are a living hell.

We've given our hearts to our "stuff"!

And so we are anxious.

We worry. We fret.

We agonize. We can't get enough.

We can't get enough ... out of all that "stuff."

And yet, ironically,

all that "stuff" doesn't provide the ultimate meaning in life that we want.

[*Prescription*]

So Jesus is right. He puts us in His MRI.

And He diagnoses us with laser beam sharpness. ***“O you of little faith.”***

Yes, we are ***“little faith”*** people.

That’s the truth. The ugly truth.

“So now what Doctor Jesus? What’s the prescription?”

Jesus lets His Father and our heavenly Father grow large before our eyes.

Jesus said:

“Have you seen the ravens or any other birds lately? Did they start up the planter in the spring and plant? And then in the fall did they reap in a harvest with the combine and take it to the elevators? I didn’t think so. And yet what happens? GOD FEEDS THEM. He takes care of them. You are much more valuable to God than birds.”

“Seen the lilies and all the flowers in the fields? Do they get out their thread, needles and sowing machines? Not hardly! And yet look at them. Not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like the flowers of the fields that are here today and gone tomorrow. Don’t you think you’re heavenly Father will clothe you too? Of course He will.”

Jesus said,

“So don’t worry.

Life is more than food and drink.

The body is more than clothes.

Really! Trust Me. Trust your heavenly Father. We’ll take care of you!”

And then Jesus gives you and me the zinger. The clincher.

He and His Father have given us the kingdom – the kingdom of heaven!

And He’s the King. The Calvary King. The Good Friday King.

Whose death won eternal life.

Whose blood cleanses from all sin.

Who put death to death.

Who crushed the Satan’s head.

[*Kingdom*] ***“Do not fear,”*** Jesus says. ***“For your Father in heaven has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”*** The kingdom is Jesus and what He has won for you on the cross: forgiveness and eternal life.

Jesus has given you a new heart. A heart that clings to Him and His gifts. He is your God. He is your Savior. No wonder He says today: ***“Seek first His kingdom and everything else (stuff that you need) will be given to you as well.”***

The most important – the ultimate – is taken care of. Jesus has seen to that.

He’ll see to the rest too.

You wouldn’t even have to worry if you sold all your possessions
and gave the cash to the poor.

Could you trust Jesus even in that? Yes! Jesus would still take care of you.
For the ***“wallet”*** of faith ***“doesn’t wear out.”*** Because faith clings to Jesus.

No ***“thief”*** can steal Jesus away from you.

No ***“moth”*** can destroy Jesus.

Jesus is your greatest ***“treasure.”*** He has the wounds to prove it.

And He brings the reign of His kingdom to you in His Sacraments.

His promise again is the kingdom promise.

The zinger. The clincher.

You’re forgiven. You’re saved.

And since Jesus is our treasure and our hearts are here – at church –

believing exactly what He promises –

even to ***“little faith”*** people like us. He delivers us. He rescues us.

[*Vocation*] So...

With God’s wisdom we serve our neighbors.

With God’s sight we fulfill our vocations.

As mother, father, sister, brother,

Aunt, uncle, cousin,

Baptismal sponsor, teacher

Each of us has many Vocations.

May God strengthen you in your various vocations.

And with God’s heart we love. AMEN!

You are the body of Christ, each one of you part of it. AMEN!