

All Things are Possible with God

October 17, 2021

Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church Pastor Tyson Labuhn

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

At one point in time, it must've seemed impossible for people to believe that it was possible to fly. And yet, with the invention of the airplane back in 1903 and its continued progress, air transportation shuttles people and products throughout the world and has generated \$175 billion in revenue this year alone.

And at one point, it seemed impossible to travel into space, but now, not only has NASA sent men to walk on the moon, but for decades now, it seems people have been living and working at the space station. We have a branch of the military called Space Force. And with the commercialization of space travel, even someone like William Shatner, who is 90 years old, has been able to travel into space and come back. And this is just what man has done to make the impossible, possible.

Now, think about what God can and does do for us, to make the impossible, possible. Ever since the days of Adam and Eve, sin has continued to permeate humanity as well as this world. Each one of us, because of inherited sin, is born sinful, enemies of God. And yet, because of His Grace, God makes the impossible possible for us. He makes it possible for us to be children of God, members of His holy family.

Our Gospel reading this morning is a continuation of last week's when the rich young man asked Jesus what he had to do to inherit eternal life. And while Jesus told him to sell all that he had and give to the poor so that he might have treasure in heaven and follow Him. The rich young man became disheartened and went away sorrowful. So Jesus said to His disciples, ***"How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God."***

His disciples were blown away. They believed that both spiritual and material riches came from God. After all, Proverbs 10:22 says, ***"The blessing of the Lord makes rich and he adds no sorrow to it."*** So, when Jesus told the rich young man to sell all that he had and give to the poor before following Him, the rich young man went away disheartened. It must've been surprising to the disciples. So, Jesus said to them that it would be hard for those who have wealth to enter into the Kingdom of God. The disciples were still speechless. So Jesus reiterates, ***"Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."*** And that's when the disciples said, ***"Then who can be saved?"***

The rich young man said that he had kept the law. He felt treasured and blessed because he had done so. He was confident and trusted that as long as he had, God was on his side. All he needed was to find out how he could inherit eternal salvation. Maybe he could even use some of his possessions to buy his way into heaven. But when Jesus told him to sell all that he had and follow Him, it was too much. He went away disheartened. So, Jesus said to the disciples that it's difficult to enter the kingdom of God. Because wealth and prosperity can tempt us away from following the

narrow path that God laid out for us. You see, our wealth and possessions can become more important to us than even God Himself.

We live in a world that puts an emphasis on wealth and prosperity. And we live in a nation that has put an emphasis on self-righteousness. Not only do we see people make demands, but they often value themselves higher than others. They have a perceived net worth higher than others. But the Word of God reminds us that we all sin and are in need of forgiveness. And try as we might to justify ourselves as St. Peter did by saying to Jesus that he and the other disciples left everything to follow Him, we don't deserve a thing, and yet God graciously calls us His children and provides for all that we need. For it's by His grace that the impossible becomes possible. And all things are possible with God, especially when it comes to salvation.

If you read on further in the verses that follow our Gospel reading, Jesus goes on to predict His death a third time. So that we might not end up in the depths of hell forever because of our sins and own selfishness, He willingly went ahead of His disciples to be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes. They condemned Him and delivered Him over to those who carried out His death. He's mocked, spit upon, flogged, and nailed to a cross. He willingly does this for us. That He might take our sins upon Himself, and having died with them, rises to new life on the third day. That we, by the grace of God, will follow Him and inherit eternal salvation.

Baptism is a way that we enter into the family of God. Baptized into His death and resurrection, through simple water and the Word, He makes the impossible to be possible

as we become children of God. We are redeemed, as St. Peter says in His first epistle, “...**with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.**” This is the price that God demanded and gave of Himself, the precious blood of the perfect lamb, that by His grace, we might be redeemed.

This morning, we’re going to be reminded of Jesus’ sacrifice in the Sacrament of the Altar. When we come to the Lord’s Altar, we’ll gather with all those who commune today. We’ll see, taste, and touch, the bread and the wine. And yet, He makes the impossible, possible because He says to us, “**This is my body. This is my blood.**” Given and shed for you, for the forgiveness of sins. That we might have eternal life. At one point this might’ve seemed impossible to believe.

At one point you may have thought that you too needed to earn or buy your way into heaven. But our salvation is too important to the Lord. So much so, that He doesn’t entrust it to us sinners. Instead of having us earn our way, or buy our way into heaven, or get into heaven by our own works, we come to learn that all things are possible with God. For it’s by grace through faith that we are saved. So that, as His children, we might receive those blessings that He gives to us. We might enjoy them and give Him thanks. Because when it comes to our salvation, “**With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.**” And so, we can rejoice as His children, and look forward to the day, when we will see Him face to face.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.