

SERMON: ST. BRICE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

(July 17th, 2022)

Quinn Clement

We care too much about what we are doing and the wealth/physical gains that we receive that we miss the BIG picture which is God/Christ.

But the Lord answered her, "...you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. (LK 10:41)

I speak to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We all are looking for purpose in our lives are we not? In many ways, this seems to be the ultimate human desire; to find meaning and connection and to be valued in some way. I had a professor who once said that humans should not be classified as *Homo Sapiens* but instead as *Homo Religiosus* because it is hardwired into our being to be religious or spiritual creatures. Now, his perspective came from an atheistic and sociological viewpoint but his point reinforces the fact that people are searching for something greater than themselves. But what gives us meaning and purpose? You can ask many people, in fact many more from Toronto, that will tell you that what gives them value is their net worth and the items that they hold in their possession...

And when you go on to talk about anything else, they shy away or are disinterested unless it has to do with "getting ahead." **Where are we getting ahead to though?** Even more so when people aren't having families; I am not sure if our cats or dogs will be grateful that we left them high-interest savings accounts or our top-of-the-line sports car. So where do we get this sense of material purpose and what does it do to us? **Well, let me start with an old story from the Indian Subcontinent;** Around the 6th century BC, there was a young man by the name of Siddhartha. Siddhartha was the son of a rich king, who, wanting to know the fate of his son, consulted astronomers and spiritual leaders from the Brahmin caste. All but one said that young Siddhartha would become either a king or a Buddha. The last Brahmin was the only one to predicted the true fate of the King's child.

Siddhartha grew up sheltered, he was given all that he wanted and was surrounded by many pleasures, while his father hid away all suffering from him for fear that he would renounce the world and abandon his future as king. But when Siddhartha was in his late twenties, he decided to leave his palace in disguise with his charioteer **Channa**. So, they departed the palace and went into the nearest city.

Then they came across an old man along the side of the road, the old man was bent over with age and was not able to walk very well and was very slow. Siddhartha asked Channa what was

where to look or are not receptive to God's word because of our own past as a Church and as a society in general. But... alas, this is not all hope lost or a terminal diagnosis for the Church because many are searching and many can be found, it might just take a little bit of patience, understanding, and getting a bit uncomfortable. **We are not called, as Christians, to be normal people and the gift of Christ's redemption is not always easy to accept.** Sometimes we even need a little bit of help and knowledge from our neighbours as last weeks reading showed us.

This brings us to the Gospel reading and the Paul's Epistle to the Colossians; Which is that we need to embrace God whole heartedly and also embrace our good works whole heartedly...

Has anyone else done the right thing but at the wrong time? Sometimes this happens if we can remember playing sports, if anyone knows hockey just a little bit, you can't go over the blueline with the puck if there is another player from your team over it already. Doesn't mean you can't go over it with the puck, or enter when the puck is across already, its just that there is a time and place for that to occur and we need to recognize it as we play the game.

I feel for Martha in this Gospel reading because she is trying so hard to make sure that everything is getting done around the house and that her guest, who is quite important I might add, is taken care of. However, she is the one who, blinded by a bit of contempt, misses the play all together and fails to recognize what is happening. Again, she is blinded by her physical work that she actually misses the importance of God in the Flesh. Now how silly would you feel if that were you, slaving away, only to be told you're not doing the right thing. **Well... that's probably most of us most of the time.**

So we live in a sort of paradox of needing to be fully focused on God, the spiritual, but also fully focused on the world at hand, the physical. Christ, for us, merges this paradox into a tangible and historical person who is Jesus, the one who died for us so that we may be presented blameless so long as we continue the Faith given to us in Him. and because we cannot see Jesus in the flesh at this moment in time, we use the Bible to listen to Him, we use art to see Him, we use architecture and music to feel his transcendence, and he most assuredly meets us each in the Eucharist reminding us of His heavenly and earthly body united in the Church. Words are amazing, but they hardly express, at least for me, the limitless and infinite meaning that is Christ and which is given by Christ for us. For many people, this may be the "God shaped hole" that resides in many peoples' lives; the same one that is continually trying to be filled with other idols and wealth, which, like our words, fall short of His glory and purpose for each and every one of us.

So, I have hope for each of us that we may embrace the paradoxes of our faith and meet the challenges of listening and acting; that we may make the world a better place; that we might re-establish God's Word amongst the lost and that we might take refuge in our loving God and not in our own merits or gains. Take the time to recognize when God is sitting right in front of us and we are needed to listen; and try to also recognize when the Holy Spirit is telling us to do its work. So, let us now prepare to meet Christ at the altar and refresh our sights on the true purpose of our lives, which is Jesus. Amen