

October 14, 2018

Born That Way: Grow by Letting Go Turning The World Around

First Reading ~ *Mark 10:17-31*

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, someone came running up and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to share in everlasting life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your parents.’” The other replied, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.”

Then Jesus looked at the person with love and said, “You lack one thing. Go, sell what you own, and give the money to those in need; you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” At this the person was shocked, and went away grieving, for they had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for those who have wealth, and who keep on holding onto it, to enter the reign of God!” And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the reign of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the dominion of God.” The disciples were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For humans it is impossible, but not for God. With God all things are possible.” Peter began to say to Jesus, “Look, we have left everything and followed you!”

Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left home, sisters or brothers, mother or father, children or fields for me and for the Good News, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this present age – homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, children, and property, though not without persecutions – and in the age to come, everlasting life. Many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

Second Reading ~ *from Jesus = Life*⁴

Perspective is everything. How we see the world matters.

Einstein was a brilliant and gifted physicist, but he also possessed a colorful imagination, and it was perhaps this gift, more than any other, that allowed him to consider the world around him in completely new ways. With imagination as his laboratory, and “thought experiments” as his guide, he used mathematics to craft a completely new vision of the universe, how it works, and the laws that govern it. With just a few simple mathematical phrases, physics shifted, and the Newtonian world we had all lived in for centuries ... turned upside down. Einstein didn’t change the universe, he changed the way we *look* at the universe. And that changed everything.

Jesus taught new ways of looking at the world. Things that were considered desirable he revealed as distractions. Things that people avoided were things he revealed as being at the core of humanity. Behaviors that people regarded as true marks of success he revealed as false and hypocritical. To reactions that people thought were reflexive and thus acceptable he offered responses that initially seemed counterintuitive, and yet, are at the very heart of living a well centered life in a world that, at times, seems intent on keeping us off balance. Jesus increased the height, depth, breadth, and richness of life... a perspective that offered life, more abundantly.

Jesus doesn't change life, he changes the way we *look* at life. And that changes everything.