

March 16, 2025

Second Sunday in Lent: Christ Collides with Our Money

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

300 E. Oak Street, Ft. Collins, CO 80524

Worship: 10:00 AM

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LENT: CHRIST COLLIDES

This Lent we will explore some of Jesus' parables. It has been said that the origin of the word parable is two things that collide. In many parables, Jesus intentionally means to shock by using stark contrasts, reversals of fortune, humor, and surprise endings. Often we encounter his teachings colliding with our own assumptions and what is considered the "conventional wisdom" of our world.

1. GATHERING

Prelude (Stan)

Call to Worship (Lynette)

Leader: Christ collides with our money. Who will take him seriously?

People: But I have bills to pay, mouths to feed, and a mortgage.

Leader: Why do I feel guilty? What's wrong with eating well and having some nice things?

People: I can't sell everything and give the money away - then I will be poor.

All: For the sake of building your Holy community, O God, transform us as we worship you this morning.

Many: For your reign, O God, help us put a hand on your plow and never look back.

All: Guide us as we worship you the true God.

Confession and Words of Assurance (Lynette)

All: Loving and merciful God, we confess that we have once again "missed the target" and failed to do what you have called us to do.

Leader: We have not loved you with all our thoughts, words, and actions.

People: We have not fully accepted your love for us. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Leader: We missed the target in what we chose to do and what we left neglected.

People: We are quick to pass over some of your teachings that make us uncomfortable.

All: We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to your love. Help us to shake free from our attachments to things and frugality with our time. Help us to be more generous with those less fortunate so as to build your beloved community here on earth just as it looks like in Heaven. Amen.

(How have you missed opportunities to be more generous with both time and money?)

Leader: Now hear these words of assurance — God tells us that we are created in God’s image and God created us for relationship with God and each other. In this, we know that God will never break our relationship and that God’s steadfast love endures forever.

Congregational Singing (Stan)

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

All: Let us offer one another signs of peace, reconciliation, and love.

“I try to be grateful for the abundance of the blessings that I have, for the journey that I’m on and to relish each day as a gift.” — James McGreevey

2. HEARING GOD’S WORD

Scriptures: Luke 12:15-23, 33-34

15 Speaking to the people, he went on, "Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot."

16 Then he told them this story: "The farm of a certain rich man produced a terrific crop.

17 He talked to himself: 'What can I do? My barn isn't big enough for this harvest.'

18 Then he said, 'Here's what I'll do: I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll gather in all my grain and goods,

19 and I'll say to myself, Self, you've done well! You've got it made and can now retire. Take it easy and have the time of your life!'

20 Just then God showed up and said, 'Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods - who gets it?'

21 That's what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God.' "

22 He continued this subject with his disciples. "Don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or if the clothes in your closet are in fashion.

23 There is far more to your inner life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body.

33 Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."



Sermon: “God is Coming for it All: So Get Your Priorities Straight!”

Christ Collides with Our Money

For some reason, wealth accumulation is a problem for Jesus. According to him, it makes folks greedy and selfish. This is a real problem because it inevitably gets in the way of God’s Holy Community coming to fruition here on earth. What we truly value and what we truly share is of great importance to God, and God wants it all.

3. RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Congregational Singing (Stan)

Response

Joys and Concerns

Offering & Music (Stan)

*“Abundance is not something we acquire. It is something we tune into.”
— Wayne Dwyer*

*“Your most precious, valued possessions and your greatest powers are invisible and intangible. No one can take them. You, and you alone, can give them. You will receive abundance for your giving.”
— W. Clement Stone*

Sending (Steve)

As we journey, Jesus collides with how we save and spend our money. Use it, he says, to build life-sustaining communities! Spend it to expand the reign of God! Take all your moments and your days and use them to grow a world of justice and peace!