

Theme: We are at a threshold...a threshold time.

Right now, unlike any other time in our lifetimes, we have an opportunity to move forward differently...not to resume or assume but to cross over to a new way of being. John O'Donohue says it this way:

“At any time you can ask yourself: At which threshold am I now standing?
At this time in my life, what am I leaving? Where am I about to enter?
What is preventing me from crossing my next threshold?
What gift would enable me to do it?

A threshold is not a simple boundary; it is a frontier that divides two different territories, rhythms, and atmospheres. Indeed, it is a lovely testimony to the fullness and integrity of an experience or a stage of life that it intensifies toward the end into a real frontier that cannot be crossed without the heart being passionately engaged and woken up.

At this threshold a great complexity of emotion comes alive: confusion, fear, excitement, sadness, hope. What is your story? Not all parts of the story come gift wrapped, but all parts of the story hold wisdom for you to move forward.

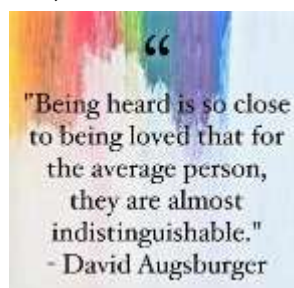
It is wise in your own life to be able to recognize and acknowledge the key thresholds:
to take your time;
to feel all the varieties of presence that accrue there;
to listen inward with complete attention until you hear the inner voice calling you forward.

The time has come to cross.”

When you begin to gain insight honoring from where you have come, honoring what has worked well already, and awakening to what is needed now....

you begin to get glimpses of what can be. You see the threshold.

And often what helps us move forward, is the sense of being heard, valued, loved.



We hear each other into life.

This is a threshold time and this is a sanctuary space in which we offer belonging to each other, hear each other, Holy love each other and appreciate each other's wisdom. Here, you can try on being that new human being Jesus invites us to become...perhaps fail at first, but then try again.

Grace invites us to move forward into this threshold moment

We cross the threshold as we embrace the fullness of our life stories and all the wisdom they hold. And we find, so often, hope comes from the very place the hurt comes.

Music video.

We're At A Threshold!

"What Do You Most Need...Now"

Psalm 22; Mark 10:17-31; Hebrews 4:12-16
October 10, 2021

So, I'm wondering if this teaching on selling is not so much about selling things as it is about

becoming aware of how *what* we possess
puts our attention on the wrong stuff.

Diverts us, defrauds us? ...from what truly needs our attention...awareness...the fullness of our humanity.

*Diverts us...from what is needed now...
to cross over that threshold?*

For *this* man, his riches defrauded him of knowing himself more deeply, he almost seems afraid...and can't imagine he could possibly be "richer" than he is...and again, this wealth and well-being has nothing to do with stuff.

I wonder what it is I possess that defrauds me, keeps me poor, afraid, unable to follow in the ways of Jesus?

I wonder what it is *each of us...* possesses...
that really possesses us!

Maybe actual possessions. Maybe...Anger. Fear. Pride. Status. Privilege. Ego. Job. Resentment. An inability to commit because we have been so burned before? Are there old tapes that keep playing over and over again...holding us captive and keeping us in the past rather than in the current moment?

Cause you know, I'm following all the laws and I am working hard and tending to my home, managing time with family and friends, going to the synagogue/church, giving just enough but not too much!

And I KNOW I am not living a heavenly life...here and now...through these ways.

But am I becoming aware of how this is keeping me from...more life?

Let's take a moment. Talk to yourself about just this...but



The rich young man...he walked away, forlorn.

And I heard Jesus say it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to go to heaven.

Hhmmn, and in some way we are all rich...

so it was natural his disciples would see that and be astounded and ask who then can ever get to heaven.

And, Jesus...did you catch what He said then?

He said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

I guess He really means it....God sees clearly what we do (sword like vision) and continually is willing to help us in our weakness none the less! Meeting us where we are.

Making all things possible!

Heaven here and now.

We can go boldly toward grace.

We may give up family, friends, work...for the sake of justice and peace and oneness...that sword image,

but we will find a new understanding of real family, friends, work that far surpass what we thought possible.

Yes. He lacked one thing...which was not a thing at all! What was it he lacked? You and I lack?

And so, what is most needed now?

What would help me/you cross into new threshold of being and meaning? ...for you to be different? Aren't you curious?

Reflect on that for your current life.

Be curious here for moment...

What is something you are really curious about doing or becoming or leaving behind?

Curiosity is a beginning form of HOPE! That you can be different...cross over.

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We don't have to defraud ourselves. Maybe think about it this way:

Might there be another commandment Jesus would slip in if I were the one asking how to inherit eternal life? And, I am!

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It helps me to see Jesus' face looking lovingly at me while I sort all of this out.

I know changing the way I am won't be easy and others will persecute me and try to sabotage me if I try.....

but if God can do **all** things for me/with me,
maybe I *can* change **one**...thing with/for God.

.....
And so this "man" in today's parable leaves shocked to hear that faithfulness is not only about spiritual gleanings and right belief and following doctrine...

but about the witness of your life...

your life revealing your true faithfulness.

And it says he went away, grieving.

I wonder what might have happened if he had just stayed? Stayed within Jesus' loving gaze.

I wonder if Jesus was surprised he left so quickly after he had come so far?

You miss the point if you think we all are to sell everything!

Or if you think this man is rich and so this parable intended for people who have *more* than you do!

The story does not say he was a rich man...

But like you and me, he is in his own way. Possessed, infatuated with the wrong stuff of life.

And Jesus goes on with the disciples to say
if you live God's care for each and all and the common good,

you will receive a hundredfold

NOW in this age as well as the age to come.

Now! Now!

It's not about later! Eternity begins now!

It's about a new kind of investment that yields riches
beyond compare ...*NOW!*

Actual care and comfort, not just spiritual comfort!

Why do we resist giving of ourselves as much as we do?

Is it...

We think there is not enough...time, money.

...that if we hang on to what is ours, we will be protected.

Or...

We won't trust in other possible outcomes.

We say: It's too risky.

Oh, we do know better, but we resist...we resist shaping our financial and actual lives differently.

We are naked before God...God knows our hearts.

AND God also sympathizes! Not punishing us, God's "seeing" implores us to think again, take a do-over.

God is bold in grace and asks us to receive mercy in times of need! To cross that threshold into a new way of being.

Then we *can* slip through the eye of that needle!

Ultimately our ability to live, to cross over,
depends on our coming together, taking turns doing the hard tasks, and sharing gifts and leadership. Our true wealth.

So...

What is the thing you most need now to move forward?

And, what might it be that the person sitting right next to you on the screen or at home or work or ministry or family...needs to move forward? Have you asked them?

What would help them from their perspective, not yours?

I know there are times when I tried to extend care to someone else, but rather than what they needed, gave what I thought they needed.

Aware of this, how would deeper listening change the care you're giving to others...as well as yourself?

“Happiness...Contentment/Hope/Heaven on Earth is a butterfly, which when pursued, is always just beyond your grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you.”

J. Richard Lessor/Ravenous Butterflies Me: Let Love Light Upon You

We are at a threshold time. Here at church...how shall we support each other in making meaning?

What new shapes will our ministry take as we move forward...pivot?

What parts of our past stories support our courage in approaching new thresholds?

How will we love more and give more even in the face of such times?

What is it we...you...need now to cross over to a joy full lie?

How will we love two pastors? 😊

Jesus comes for times such as these!

“At any time you can ask yourself: At which threshold am I now standing?”

