

LutheranRenewal

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Jesus Christ: Treasure Hunter

by *Graham Cooke*

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus spoke to the treasure God had deposited in people. He even blessed the spiritual treasure that the people themselves did not realize they had. In Luke 19, Jesus met a crooked tax collector named Zacchaeus. Not once did Jesus reveal the man's sin. All He did was bless him and honour him. Humbled, Zacchaeus knew what to do: *"Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."*

The man simply stopped cheating others, signed away half of his possessions, and made a contract with Heaven to restore what he had previously stolen. "I robbed you of a hundred dollars: here's four hundred back"—that's God at work in one of His special treasures.



God has placed His fingerprint in the people around us, and we need to speak to that spiritual treasure. In John 1, the disciple Philip brought his brother, Nathanael, to meet Jesus. Nathanael, at first, was skeptical: *"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"* he asked. But when he finally met Jesus, the Lord spoke to the treasure in him: *"Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit,"* Jesus said, noting that He had prophetically seen Nathanael sitting under a fig tree earlier that day. *"Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel,"* exclaimed Nathanael, who left everything behind and became a disciple. Jesus spotted the treasure—that piece of God's Spirit that had been deposited in Nathanael's life—and spoke to it. Nathanael, in turn, became a pillar of the early Church.

Jesus knew that whatever He spoke to would rise up in people. Humanity always speaks to the

earthen vessel, noting every crack, flaw, and warp: "If you put this right, and change that, then we'll let you in and accept you." God is not remotely like that. He speaks to the treasure in a person and releases it from the captivity of the flesh. He extracts the precious from the worthless. We often try and do the opposite; we take out the trash and see what's left. When we speak to the treasure in people, it moves to the surface of their lives, from the hidden to the obvious. The rubbish always comes with it. When people see their own worth, they get rid of their own carnality. That's why the prophetic and the pastoral go so well together. But God knows there is treasure in each of us and He wants to bring it to the surface. Don't let your view of the worthless obscure that which is precious about a person.

We have got to change the way we think of, and behave around, other people. We don't have any enemies except for the devil and his demons. The Apostle Paul believed this: *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places,"* he wrote in Ephesians 6:12. We don't have any human enemies, only people who we are not finding the treasure in. Fortunately, God can give us a different type of vision to help us see people in a new way.

"Let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God," Peter wrote in 1 Peter 3:4.

"Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit..."

John 1:47

Lutheran Renewal

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"Incorruptible" in this verse means that the beauty will not pass away; unlike a flower that blooms and withers, that which is precious in God's eyes stands forever. When God looks at you, He sees what is precious—what He most loves about you right now.



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"You See"

by Jonathan Helser (JonathanHelser.com)
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I see a mountain, you see a miracle
I see a wasteland, you see a garden
I see dry bones, you see an army
I see the impossible, you see everything

I see the weary, you see the warriors
I see the restless, you see their peace
I see the doubting, you see their faith
I see the weak, you see their strength

You are, I am
But I've been so blind, all this time
My God, touch me
I want to see the way that you see



Arise!

Outside

"The poverty cycle can be broken when girls stay in school" (National Geographic, Sept. 2011)

What if lack of feminine hygiene kept you in your room for days? No income for days. No school for days, with some girls missing up to three months of school a year. We can change that!

Arise! Women has joined Days For Girls, Int'l., an organization whose mission is to provide reusable sanitary supplies for girls who live in developing countries. Denise Siemens will be taking a team to Gulu, Uganda, in February 2014, and she wants to take as many sanitary kits as possible. You can join us!

Attend our First Sewing Event

November 2, 2013 • 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church in Brooklyn Center, MN

You can help by sewing, cutting, ironing, assembling kits

You must register to help at this event so we will know how to plan. **Contact our Arise! Days for Girls Coordinator, Linda Ruscher:** lindaruscher@daysforgirls.org

Donate Materials

- 100% cotton fabric
- 100% cotton flannel
- cotton/poly blend fabrics
- Zip-loc sandwich and 1 gallon freezer bags
- Travel-size bar soap
- Washcloths
- Hanes panties, Girls' sizes 12, 14, 16



Direct all inquiries and offers to volunteer to Linda Ruscher: lindaruscher@daysforgirls.org



Donate Time

- Sew at home
- Ask your church's women's group to join us
- Patterns and instructions available at DaysForGirls.org. Send your finished projects to Arise! Women.

PLAN NOW!

Arise!

Women



Equipping Conference Growing Disciples— It Takes Time

February 7-8, 2014

Alan Hirsch & Steve Thompson

St. Paul, MN

Details coming in November

► View Holy Spirit Conference photos at LutheranRenewal.org or Lutheran Renewal on Facebook

