



**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and  
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church**  
13564 St. Andrews Drive; Seal Beach, CA 90740  
Phone (562) 598-8697; FAX (562) 598-8697  
e-mail: [redeemer\\_lutheran@verizon.net](mailto:redeemer_lutheran@verizon.net)

October 2024

***Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing***  
***“A Step Further”***

The first Sunday of October Jesus is again disrupting the status quo. This time he redefines the importance of marriage and the value of women in a society that looked at women as property. He continued with making children important, too. Jesus never seems to have a problem with expanding the rules to live by. He always looks at how to show the Father's love for all his creation. He looks to raise those with low status. He looks to heal and support those in the most need. He calls all of us to do the same. *This is your chance to look at how you value others. Who is important to you? Who do you respond to the quickest? Who are you trying to raise up?*

The second Sunday of October Jesus again challenges his followers, even those whom are just coming to him. A rich man asks how he can inherit eternal life and Jesus reiterates the Commandments. Jesus also goes a degree further: He wants the rich man to sell what he has and give to the poor. Jesus continues on to warn those who are rich that it will be hard for them to enter the Kingdom. It sounds odd. If Jesus comes to save all and invites all to the Father, if this is true, then why does he exclude the rich? I think the challenge with being rich, is what to do with it? How do you treat others? What are your goals with the money? I think that Jesus requires the same from the rich as he does from the poor, it's just a little harder because we are creatures of comfort, and we like to keep what we have. *So, we are challenged to go that step further.*

The third Sunday of October we hear a similar Gospel lesson, with more details, than the one from September 22<sup>nd</sup>'s Gospel lesson from Mark chapter 9 verses 30-37. Jesus calls out specifically James and John, the sons of Zebedee, for wanting to be placed at Jesus' right and left sides. Jesus reiterates that to be great in his Kingdom, you must be a servant to all. He also reminds them that he is destined to die and reminds them that if they continue to follow him, they also will be subject to the same. Jesus does not beat around the bush about how this will end. He warns us repeatedly that, if you follow me, you will probably not have a happy, easy life. *But, we as faithful Christians, continue to follow because the final reward is worth the costs in this life.*

The fourth Sunday in October we will be celebrating Reformation Sunday. The Gospel lesson for this Sunday is from John. Jesus talks about true freedom. Freedom is a word that has been used a lot in recent times. How we act and what we do with our freedoms depends on a lot of factors from how we were raised, what we have learned, politics, friends, societal influences, and hopefully, our faith. Jesus' freedom is a bit different. He has freed us from the slavery of sin. That slavery keeps us from God who is all good and all loving. Jesus has given us a place by his side. But, as with all freedoms, we need to accept it and use it wisely. Freedom is both a gift and a duty. *What is your "favorite" sin? How are you working with Jesus to be free of this? How have you enjoyed and used the freedom that Jesus has given you?*