



SERMON OF THE WEEK

First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu at Ko'olau

October 28, 2018

Go for Broke (Hope Restored Series)

Pastor Dan Chun

Mark 10:17 *As Jesus started on His way, a man ran up to Him and fell on His knees before Him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

Mark 10:18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone.

Mark 10:19 You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'"

Mark 10:20 "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

Mark 10:21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," He said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Mark 10:22 At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Mark 10:23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

Mark 10:24 The disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!"

Mark 10:25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God."

Mark 10:26 The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"

Mark 10:27 Jesus looked at them and said, "With human beings this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

Amazingly at a young age, according to some scholars, like a yuppie, a wealthy young urban professional, goes up to Jesus to ask a penetrating question: What must I do to inherit eternal life?

Great question. It came from a young man who, when it came to being the good son, knew how to morally cross his "t's" and dot his "i's." He didn't commit adultery; he honored his mom and dad, he didn't kill anyone, he didn't lie.

Proudly he tells Jesus that he's been doing this since he was a little boy. He's the good boy who has grown into a fine young man. This is the person who, when asked, "Will you go to heaven," will say—"Well, I am a pretty good person, so yes. If heaven is for really good moral people, unlike those terrorists or Nazi's or Charles Manson, I should be able to waltz right in."

But then Jesus, who is not into religion or a set of rules but about committed friendship, stuns the man and says, "One thing you lack."

I think for many of us that is what could get us worried. What if we were to die and go to heaven and at the so-called pearly gates, the gatekeeper says, you can't go in because there is one thing you lack. One shudders to think, "What would that one thing be?"

Jesus then tells you what the answer is to the eternal pop quiz, Jeopardy's Divine Daily Double. He answers the young man with love:

Mark 10:21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," He said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.

Mark 10:22 At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

We get it. Who wouldn't feel sad? You work hard all your life. You don't cheat. You don't lie. You're faithful in marriage. And that's not enough, Jesus? Then forget about it! Maybe we too would walk away and think that's impossible.

But you see it is a trick challenge, which is—are you willing to give away whatever you have for the cause of Jesus?

Does it mean that the day you become a Christ-follower you have to give away all of your material possessions and live like St. Francis or Mother Teresa or St. Ignatius? No. What Jesus meant was on the day you become a follower of Jesus, it is the day you realize that everything you have, everything—your money, your

time, your car, your kids (if a parent), your stocks, your clothes—everything you have actually belongs to God and for God to use.

He is the real owner of all that we have, and we are just the stewards. Our outlook of life and our priorities have changed. We willingly want to give up our worldly possessions for whatever God asks us to. Everything is His anyway. When we commit to follow Jesus, we are “going for broke.”

“Go for broke” is that old saying that means we go all out and hold nothing back. Going for broke for Jesus means, “I will give up anything and will do anything you ask of me, Lord.” Actually when we go to heaven...we can't take anything with us. Everything we have should be invested here on earth for the Kingdom of God.

And what do we invest in? Jesus said to help the poor (either materially poor or emotionally poor), the widows, the imprisoned, the stranger in the land. And when you do that, great will your treasure be in heaven. Go all out for Jesus. Go for broke for Jesus.

Remember we are like the rich young man considering that we, Americans, are in the top 5% of income in the world. The trouble with Americans is that we are like the camel that can't go through the eye of a needle because we don't want to let go of our MATERIAL stuff. We ALSO don't want to let go of our IMMATERIAL stuff, like our pride and status and accomplishments that get in the way of giving it all up for God.

The disciples in our passage say this is impossible. Who then can be saved? And Jesus responds in that profound verse: Jesus looked at them and said, “With human beings this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.” (Mark 10:27)

What He is saying is that all of this sacrificial living for others, all of this love for others, all of this new sensitivity for

those who are poor in material or poor in spirit because they don't know Christ, all of that can happen miraculously when we decide to follow Jesus. His Holy Spirit enters into us and will empower us to love the unlovable and want to be generous for the things of God.

What the rich young man who questioned Jesus didn't understand is that being a follower of Christ doesn't mean just being a good moral person to win a place in heaven or for world approval. It means if you are good, you are doing it out of your love for Christ. It means you do good not to make yourself look good, but to make Jesus look good.

It means that the faith is really about is a friendship with Jesus. And when you fully accept and realize that He, as your best friend, died for you, suffered for you, and loves you, then you are willing to do anything for Him, even sell everything for Him.

Most churches, including ours, speak of this phrase – tithes and offerings. The tithe is making sure that 10% of our monies goes to Jesus' ministry each year, but the offerings are gifts to God above that 10%.

We are on the brink of a huge project that we believe God is asking us to fund above our tithe as an offering to Him that would be given sometime in the next four weeks. This offering would end four weeks from now on the day of Thanksgiving, perhaps symbolic that we give out of a tremendous thankful heart to God because we want others to know Him.

This offering is going to go to The 547 Project, a financial appeal starting today aimed at helping the poor materially and emotionally. It's a project to reach the unchurched, those who might be lost without Christ, as we were once lost without our Lord Jesus.

By Thanksgiving, we hope to raise \$547,000 IN ADDITION to our normal church tithes and giving.

Why? Because we are starting a new satellite church campus – where we will have more social justice service opportunities, more ministry opportunities, and more worship services.

Where will it be? In Kaka'ako at 547 Halekauwila Street just Diamond Head of Punchbowl Street.



We will have six of the downstairs rooms and two upper rooms on the left.



Why will it cost \$547,000? Because that is the cost of launching a new campus, including the first-year expense of a 10-year lease and all of the remodeling cost of the 5,550 square foot piece of property.



We will knock down walls to enlarge rooms for worship and ministries. There is all of the cost of putting in a simple café, new windows, new electrical systems, and fixing the air conditioning.

We will install the sound and light and video equipment and all of the furnishings.



The whole bottom will be the new sanctuary/fellowship hall/café. Plus two upper rooms for children and for the other expanding programs as needed. The size of the main room will be about the size of our senior and junior high room combined here at Ko'olau. In fact might be used one day as a Honolulu option for youth ministry, and, of course, we need to install new bathrooms.

Why did we pick Kaka'ako?

Kaka'ako is the epicenter of influence. If we really want to help renew the city, and bring Jesus Christ to those who don't know Him, we couldn't have chosen a better spot. It is adjacent to the business center as it is close to Bishop Street. It is close to the judicial system as the Supreme Court, Federal Courts are near there. It is right next to the political hub as the State Capitol and City Hall are nearby.

It is the nexus to where the young families are moving into the many condominiums and apartments there and the many units that are coming in future years. It is the upcoming hangout for the young adults – with congregating areas like SALT, Moku's, espresso shops, and yes bars. The area also has Ward Theaters, a huge movie theater complex.

Nearby is also one of the biggest transit centers downtown. Kaka'ako is also next to one of the biggest employers of the state – Queens Medical Center. It is near to two senior citizen homes and

transitional apartments. It is also a place where there are many who are homeless. It is a huge diverse cultural mix – you have Whole Foods and Down To Earth there, which is kind of the affluent and the granola crowd.

With tongue in cheek I say you have the Whole Food affluent, the hippies, the homeless, and the hipsters all in one place. We hope the new satellite campus will seat up to 200 people with a couple of smaller rooms on the second floor. Remember not huge – only about 5,500 square feet.

Worship services will be different there. It will have a band. The services might be a bit longer as we might feature more of the things we don't have time for here at Ko'olau due to the three services and the shuttle schedule we adhere to. Worship there might include things like testimonies, meals, discussion groups to respond and react to the sermon, and more ministry time of prayer for healing.



Here's an important thing to know about how we designed the logo of the 547 Project: the circles in the logo represents community. Our goal is to build community in circles, instead of rows—meaning when we do church, we want everyone to be involved—having the same DNA as here in Ko'olau. We don't want spectators sitting in rows, but people who participate in worshiping and serving God, and who are intentional about getting to know each other.

You'll notice too that these are not a closed circles but open ones because our community is not a club, but an open one where everyone's welcome.

There is so much more to tell you about it, and I cannot take all the time now to

detail it out. There will be an info packet coming in the mail for you this week with an envelope you can use for your gift to the 547 Project. Please pray for what the Lord might want you to give.

If you are not on our mailings list and are interested in this mission, then pick up a packet up at the Front Desk, the Hospitality table, or the 547 Project info table in the fellowship hall.

The info is also available starting today on our website at fpchawaii.org with a video of me with pictures of the building and my explanation of what we are hoping to do. We will have tours starting next Sunday of the satellite campus with docents explaining the building and the neighborhood and more of the vision of why we wanted to move there.

You can sign up for these tours on our website or in the fellowship hall today or online at fpchawaii.org. We will also have small town hall information meetings to answer your questions starting next Sunday.

But maybe you ask: who are the main players in the satellite campus? Our Executive Coordinator Jenny Sung will be our Campus Pastor. She has worked with me for nearly two decades both at HIM and First Prez. She is a great organizer and people person and teacher. Other Key leaders are Randy Lau, Hou-wen Liang, Garrett Sullivan, and Shelley Germain are all working on the design implementation, with Freddy Noa working on the lease.

There are other staff and members who are highly skilled and experienced who are deeply involved. This project is in good hands, but at this point what we need are prayer, volunteers, and the money to do it. And that's why we have the 547 Project.

And if you want a Bible verse that describes the essence of this 547 Project, well, if you turn to Psalm 547 ... no make that 54:7 beginning with the sixth verse, for context, you read this:

P *psalm 54:6 With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good. For He has delivered me from every trouble.*

That is why we go all out for the Lord. We want to make a freewill offering by Thanksgiving. We do it out of great thanksgiving – remembering God delivered us from every trouble.

Now, some of you may be here saying, okay I get it that you want to have a satellite campus. I get the why for the cost – it's expensive to lease a downtown building and to knock down internal walls and build it out. But why this desire to reach the lost, reach those who don't know Jesus.

First of all being welcoming and inviting the unchurched has always been part of our DNA. And we don't want to take people from other churches. We don't steal fish from other aquaria. That has always been part of our core.

Did you know that every January we survey our congregation and did you know that in the last survey this year it showed that 31% of our people were not going to church before joining us. That's great that this became your church home. And six percent said they are not Christian but are attending. That is great! If let's say a 1000 people worship here on a Sunday that means there are 60 people here who don't trust Jesus as friend, Lord, and Savior.

They don't follow Him and we in response say that is so great that are you are here. You are welcome. You are not alone as there are 59 others just like you sitting somewhere being that mystery shopper on Jesus, and the other 940 are saying welcome! Hang out! Stick six!

“Be our guest, be our guest put our service to the test. Tie your napkin round your neck, Cherie, and we'll provide the rest.” (“Be Our Guest” lyrics @Walt Disney Music Company)

Hopefully all that we do points to a real loving God. Kaka'ako will primarily go after the unchurched.

Some may say, why not just add another service here? Well, for all of the reasons of being adjacent to where the growth is, being near to circles of influence, and that we will not have the time or space constraints we have here, this satellite is not independent of First Prez but still a part of it. Sermons will be given live and in-person. And the same sermons will be given at Ko'olau and Kaka'ako.

Research shows that a new satellite campus reaches more unchurched people because it is such a high focused priority. I am hoping there will be a great resurgence and rekindling of the fires of our evangelism and discipleship both at Ko'olau in Kaneohe and in Kaka'ako.

Golly, someday we have got to do a satellite at a place that doesn't start with a “K.” Having left Ke'eaumoku to come to Kaneohe and Ko'olau. Maybe Ko'ele Lodge will be next.

Now to be clear, we HERE at the Ko'olau campus will continue to be a thriving, pulsating, vital, throbbing, pumping, shimmering, and scintillating community of worship and service to the community. Ko'olau remains our power projection platform of equipping and ending out our members to share the love of Jesus to our community.

We are NOT abandoning Ko'olau, and we believe that Ko'olau is important to our present and future. This will still be the critical home base of worship, discipleship, and mission.

By the way, the church satellite campus will have a new name since we figured calling it “First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu in Kaneohe at Ko'olau and now in Kaka'ako” would be too long.

I'll explain to you the new name next week, and give the deep reasons why we chose that name. But if you read the email and letter this week, you will see

what the name is. But next week I will tell you why.

But let me go back to the question of why this big desire we have to reach the lost – those who were lost like we when we didn't have the clear direction of living for Christ and having so many of our dreams fulfilled through Him.

Let me tell you a true story that will get to the very core of why we are doing this satellite church.

In October of 1944, during World War II, about 275 American soldiers, primarily from Texas, were surrounded and trapped by the more than 6,000 Nazis in the Vosges Forest in France. They were bent on terminating the American soldiers. The US decided to send in the 442nd of the 100th Battalion to save them. This was an incredible decision for two reasons.

One, the 442nd was already extremely tired from just saving two French towns: Biffontaine and Bruyere. They desperately needed rest. Second, as many of you know, many of the 442nd were Nisei, or second generation Japanese Americans. The Japanese Americans were unfairly treated during the War. Many of them were from Hawaii.

The Japanese Americans were evicted from their homes. All of their possession had to be sold at a fire sale price or given away. Their bank accounts were frozen or made difficult to access. They were treated with scorn because they happened to be of Japanese extraction.

Some of our own church members were in these camps or were affected by it, and relatives were immediately separated. And yet, even though their own country did not fully give Asian Americans the same rights as other Americans, the 442nd, composed of many Asian Americans, was dedicated to do what was right.

They were committed to the cause of freedom and liberty for our country and, in this case, France and especially to save the lost Texan battalion in the Vosges Forest.

By the way our own church member Tak Yoshihara's family was put in a camp. Tak spent three years there. His family was a family of ten. When they were finally released, a Seattle Church took them in and let them live in the basement as they had no house or belongings. Upon their release, the government gave each family member a bus or train ticket and \$25 to start a new life. Twenty-five dollars!

But to his credit and integrity, Tak grew up and volunteered for the military. He was the first Japanese American to be appointed to the Naval Academy and was eventually promoted to Captain (which is one level below Admiral) and served on the USS Missouri just prior to the Korean War.

Now, back at the Vosges Forest in France, it turned out to be a horrible fight to get to the Texans and save them. There were many casualties. The Nazis had tremendous power with artillery, tanks, and soldiers. But after six days the 442nd finally broke through and saved the Texans. I bet many of them must have been surprised to see the American Japanese soldiers as the ones who saved them.

For years later and to this day, the veterans of those two units have been very close and visit each other when they can. Only in the year 2000 did three of those brave soldiers, who led the rescue, were given the Congressional Medal of Honor, our nation's highest honor. Five of the received Presidential citations, but only 56 years after that famous battle.

No other unit in all of American history has been decorated as many medals as the 442nd for its size and length of service, and no other has had as many casualties as the 442nd. They truly sacrificed for the cause. They suffered 800

casualties to save the remaining 211 Texans.

It was in this battle that the famous slogan of "Go For Broke" became known for the 442nd. It was because at various times, the 442nd had to go all out, as tired and weary and wounded as they were, to run up a hill as machine guns and artillery were shooting at them. It was a go-for-broke time. They said, "We had to get to the top of the hill to save our brothers. We will go all out ... go for broke and run up and save the Texans."

For many people today, that battle is considered in one of the top ten of American battles of importance to study. It's also up there because of its significance. It is referred to worldwide as *The Rescue of the Lost Battalion*.

So you may ask, "Nice story, Dan, but what does that have to do with our Bible passage or even the 547 Project appeal?"

If I may, if our 547 Project had a subtitle, it would be *Go for Broke*. At times we have to sacrifice against all odds to save the lost. If we really have felt the presence of Jesus, then we would "go for broke" into the city to share the presence and love of Jesus to people who are lost so they might be saved.

And this is not to be condescending but we all need saving. We are all a spiritually lost battalion. We all are like lost sheep without a shepherd until we finally know and follow Jesus, who is really God and who can help us lead a fulfilled life.

You see to go back to our scripture passage, it will all make sense. All what Jesus was saying to that rich young person was, "Are you willing to become broke for Me? Can you give it all away for the cause of liberty and freedom for others? Can you now live a life all out for Me? Can you "go for broke" for God?"

I know this is a huge sacrifice for us to raise \$547,000 in four weeks so that we

can launch a rescue mission, so to speak, to save others for the next decade. But in the context of what has been sacrificed for us, by Jesus and the generations of followers who have been all-in for and through His church (including many of you), I know we can do it! Will you join us in this effort? Some can make big gifts. Some can make smaller gifts.

As I said earlier, if you're on our mailing list, you'll get an information packet in the mail this week, which has a letter from me, a sheet of frequently asked questions, and a donation envelope.

If you're not in our mailing, please stop by the Front Desk and pick up an information packet. Another option is to go to our website: fpchawaii.org, where you can read about the 547 PROJECT, the FAQs, watch the video, and even make your gift online.

I know that for some it may be harder to give, so the gift may be small. But whether we think we have a lot to give or only a little to give, please pray and ask God to help you make that decision. This is between you and God. He knows your heart.

In the Bible Jesus said a woman who gave two copper coins as an offering one day gave more than anyone else because she gave all that she had. She gave sacrificially from the heart.

Will you join us? From Ko'olau to Kaka'ako with love and go for broke for Christ?