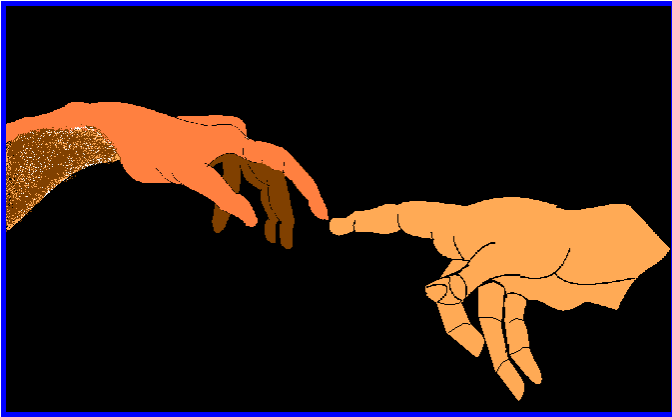


The Missing Link



By

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The Missing Link

Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him “**One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.** Matthew 10:21

In 1961 a recording artist by the name of Etta James sang her most popular hit “At Last”. You only need to hear the first stanza of the song to understand the message: “At last my love has come along, my lonely days are over and life is like a song”. What had been missing in her life had finally come. She was no long empty. She had found her **Missing Link!**

There is etched in our dna an urgent need to connect with our creator. Just as we feel the

connection with our loved ones and our friends, we also have a spiritual connection with our God.

I will never forget the Christmas I spent in Arkansas a few years ago with my first grandchild. I was sitting talking with him and my daughters when his grandmother came through the door and when he saw her he exclaimed with passion beyond his years “There Is My Mur” What he was really saying to me was grand daddy as much as I have enjoyed our little chat my **Missing Link** Just walked through the door and I’m sorry, but I got to go connect with my Mur.

Many who have tried to fill that need, that **missing Link**, have not recognized it as a

part of our divine nature. They simple since an itch that needs to be scratched, an emptiness that needs to be filled, a hollowness or void that cries for completion a disconnect that needs reconnection. What in fact it is, is a **Missing Link** between their soul and their Creator. As a result of their mistaken notion of what is happening on their inside, they try to scratch that itch, fill that emptiness and complete that void with any and everything but the Lord.

When I was wrestling with my calling to the ministry I tried to do everything I could but preach. I was on the trustee board. I was an usher. I taught Sunday school, I was choir director and I was youth leader. Surely that was enough. I just knew the Lord would be

satisfied with all that I was doing, but all that I was doing was not what God called me to do and until I yielded I had no peace. And the moment I said here am I, I felt that connection with God that gave me a lasting inner peace, a peace that has never left me.

Our text today is a familiar one. It is the record of Jesus' encounter with the rich young ruler. You will recall how he approached Jesus, "Good Master what must I do to inherit eternal life" Jesus responded "Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is God.

How many of you have ever been at a place in your life when you knew that you had done a good job? And even thou you knew that you had you still wanted some

confirmation of the fact. I had cooked some cabbage one day and I called a few friends to have them come over and taste it. I couldn't reach any of them and by the time I did I had eaten it all up and could only tell them about what they missed.

Well this question by the rich young ruler was the equivalent of my cabbage call and Jesus knew it. So Jesus put him in check by letting him know that flattery will get you no where. **Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, do not kill, do not still, Do not bear false witness, defraud not, honor thy father and mother.** Well that was the confirmation the rich young ruler was looking for and boy did he stick his chest out. I would imagine that if they were high fivein back then he would have wanted to slap

Jesus' hand. "And he answered and said unto him, Master all of these have I observed from my youth". To his credit, the rich young ruler had lived an exemplary life and he knew it. He had dotted all of his I's and crossed all of his T's and this confirmation by Jesus was just what he needed or so he thought, to get him to the next level in his relationship with God. What he did not know was that what he thought was a shallow question designed to boost his ego was in fact a very deep question that spoke to that urgent need that is present in all of us. What he was really saying without knowing it was "Master there is a **Missing Link** inside of me. Can you tell me how to fill it? He had asked the right question. His

motive was wrong, but his soul had reached out to Jesus.

Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, “**One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross and follow me.**”

Yes my son there is a **Missing Link**, there is a disconnection between you and God. The only way you can fill the void and get that **Missing Link** is to first remove the weight and the sin that so easily besets you. Sell whatever you have, get rid of the stuff that you think has value so that you can obtain true value, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, help those that are less fortunate, and finally if you want to grasp hold of the **Missing**

Link you must embrace the cross. Your soul is in need of security, your eternal well being is in jeopardy and the only way you can satisfy that urgent desire that is crying for attention from deep down inside of you is to embrace the cross. You see Rich young ruler the Cross is the **Missing Link**. You want eternal life, take up the cross! For it was at the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light and the burdens of my heart rolled away. It was there by faith I received my sight and now I am happy all the day!