

“Three Dollars Worth of God”

Begin with the Parable of the Rich Young Man read to the group aloud:

Reader:

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (19:16-22)

And someone came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?"

And He said to him, "Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments."

Then he said to Him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER; YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY; YOU SHALL NOT STEAL; YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS;

HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER; and YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?"

Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

SCRIPT

“\$3.00 Worth of God”¹

[Shopper walks into the store, Shop Owner has an apron on and greets from behind a table.]

Shop Owner: Good Morning!

Shopper: Good Morning!

Shop Owner: Is there anything I can help you with today?

Shopper: Well, yes. I see that you have large and small of a lot of things...but I am looking for just a pinch of something, is that possible?

Shop Owner: Well, I guess that depends on what it is. . .

Shopper: Well, I would like to purchase three dollars worth of God, please.

Shop Owner: Excuse me?

Shopper: Three dollars worth of God, please.

Shop Owner: Are you sure all you want is three dollars worth.

Shopper: Three dollars, exactly. No more, no less.

I want just enough that it is convenient.

I certainly don't want so much God that it becomes overwhelming or I have to make any giant changes in my life.

No, three dollars is just enough to say I have God, but not enough that having God becomes a problem for me. . .

Shop Owner: A problem for you?

Shopper: I want enough God that I feel reassured that in case of emergency I have God in my back pocket. . .

So that God is there for important events like weddings and baptisms, but not so that it is a part of everything I do. .

I want God to be with me like an insurance policy. . .

comforting like warm blanket or a cup of cocoa. . .

But if emergency strikes, I'll have just enough to get by. . .

Shop Owner: Have you given any consideration to buying a larger dose of God?

¹ Script written by the Archdiocese of Baltimore Division of Youth and Young Adult Ministry based on Wilbur Rees' reflection "3.00 Worth of God," excerpted from Tim Hansel, When I Relax I Feel Guilty (Elgin, IL: David C. Cook Publishing Co. 1979)

Shopper: Do you have any idea how cumbersome it would be to have more than three dollars worth of God in my life!
I don't want enough of him to have to love the people who make me angry or have hurt me. .
I don't want to have to like the immigrants or the homeless
I certainly don't want to have to think about all those depressing things like – global warming, human trafficking, children being hungry or cold. . .
No, that would mean I would have to step outside myself. . .that would mean I would have to get involved. . .
That would mean I couldn't buy and do what I want to buy and do...and instead I would have to. . . .
Well, let's just say three dollars is just fine for me today.

Shop Owner: Three dollars worth of God.

Shopper: Listen, I don't want transformation. I just want ecstasy.
I don't want to have to love a black man or pick fruit with an immigrant.
I want safety and security where I'm fine just the way I am.
I don't want to struggle and I don't want to sacrifice.
I JUST WANT THREE DOLLARS WORTH OF GOD

Shop Owner: Very Well, Miss...
But I can guarantee that there will be no change from your purchase...