Beyond the Bag
Transaction or Transformation
Culture, Relationships & Connection
Faithful “what” and Faith-Filled “how” Pg. 115.
“We need new architects to design interconnected approaches to faith transference. We need new ecosystems of spiritual and vocational apprenticeship that can support deeper relationships and more vibrant faith formation.” Religion and Youth
And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25 NRSV)
(V18). Deliberate Recognition “Good Teacher”
RR acknowledges Jesus as a person of knowledge, power, influence, effectiveness, wisdom and ability.

Deliberate Request “What must I do to inherit eternal life” “Insta-Eternal Life
RR expresses a desire for a spiritual reality/ a quest for a spiritual encounter or a destination (Baby Boy)

What might be the pro’s and cons of this request.
Jesus’s willingness to respond to the request reflects his communal spirit and desire to add value to another, in particular someone possibly younger than himself (Luke 18:15-17).

Jesus’s response to the RR reflects his willingness to engage and acknowledge the inquiry/question and desire. The willingness to engage can create unlimited possibilities.

Jesus provides him with a response that moves it to a deeper level beyond transaction from the “what” to the “why.”
Divine Redirection (V19-20)

“Why do you call me good”
Jesus’s response to the RR is rooted in elevating it beyond title towards something deeper.

“You know the commandments”
Jesus acknowledges the RR’s spiritual knowledge however he redirects the desire towards an intentionally transformed style of life beyond just a transaction for access. Eph 2:8-10.
V21. “I have kept these since my youth” Reveals the commitment that has been maintained. (Discipline, Intentionality, Desire and Drive)

RR believes that he has already arrived at a certain spiritual level or has a spiritual perception that is unbalanced.

Perception and Performance can give the appearance of power.

Having taken all the right steps, made the right moves, maintained certain statues but yet there is another level. (Head and Hands)
“Depression among young people has more than doubled But are we really surprised that a generation addicted to following fake celebrities, living fake lives, with fake values, while they express fake emotions on fake reality shows…might be struggling to find real happiness.” Steven Bartlett.
When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

Jesus does not diminish the RR’s commitment but extends a new challenge and offers an opportunity for growth and connection. Matthew 25:35-40.

Jesus appeals now to matters of the heart.

Jesus offers the opportunity to do an exchange that is beyond the tangible.

The cost was more than he was willing to pay?

What had been modeled before him made him believe he could just pay with his money. Appearance and not Actualization

Does not see how the selling of riches is connected to eternal life.

Still has an understanding of the law and a myopic view of Jesus that will not allow him to see beyond the present.
1. Are we willing to engage in dialogue concerning faith positions.

2. Can we acknowledge and appreciate what people come with and see how we can grow together.

3. Can we offer intentional and creative opportunities for spiritual growth and development.
Matthew 19:13-15
Is There Plenty Good Room?
Blessings and Belonging
August 14, 2019
What do these entities understand about their survival?
“African American families exhibit a strong affective orientation in child rearing. Most African American households contain a large number of people, and children are accustomed to having their learning mediated by people. African American children therefore learn best when their learning is oriented toward people (subjective) rather than towards objects (objective). They will respond best when taught in small groups with a great deal of nurturing and interaction between the teacher and the child and between each child and his or her peers. Therefore, whole-class instruction groups and reading groups should be as small as possible.” Janice Hale: Learning While Black pg. 118.

2. They also understood the value of divine touch (present) and divine covering (present & future) prayer.

3. They demonstrate a public belief in the power of Jesus.
“I believe God had a plan for me”
Which version of Jesus have we given young/er people or which version have we brought them to?

Soft, Meek, Mild, Humble, Non-Confrontational, Just Love Everybody, etc..

Soldier of Love, Spiritual Revolutionary, Faithful, Faith-Filled, From the Ghetto, Empowering, Liberating, Raised by a teenage mother, Hunted by Empire, Hair like lamb’s wool, Nail Riddled Hands (John 20: 19- 20) Game-changing life transforming Christ!
The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them;

The disciples wanted to prevent, impede and deny them from getting to Christ.

The disciples have a misunderstanding of what Jesus’s mission is. (Abundant Life).

The disciples lack discernment and have a myopic or narrow-minded view of the future.
Jesus’s response challenges the narrow-mindedness of the disciples. Jesus’s response is based on the future his ministry will usher in (John 2:13-22) “for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs”

Jesus’s response reflects how much he values the young!

“A child looks on the world with wondering and expectant eyes, and lives in glad trust. So Christ followers must live—not in childishness, but in childlike faith, dependent on the strong mercy of God.”

The Interpreter’s Bible pg.483.
Jesus conveys to them (through touch and speech) that they are valued, loved, acknowledged and divinely covered.

Jesus’s actions demonstrate his willingness to convey/transfer spiritual power to the next generation.

Laying on of hands