

I want to be famous  
so I can be humble  
about being famous.

What good is my humility  
when I am stuck in this obscurity?

“Dilemma,” by David Budvill

Mark 12:35-37a

And as Jesus taught in the temple, he said,  
“How can the scribes say that  
the Christ is the son of David?

“David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared,  
‘The Lord said to my Lord,  
    Sit at my right hand,  
until I put your enemies under your feet.’

“David himself calls him Lord.  
So how is he his son?”

Matthew 22:41-45

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together,  
Jesus asked them a question, saying,  
“What do you think about the Christ?  
Whose son is he?”

They said to him, “The son of David.”

He said to them, “How is it then that David,  
in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,  
‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand,  
until I put your enemies under your feet’?  
If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?”

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Psalm 110:1-4 “A Psalm of David”

The LORD says to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand,

until I make your enemies your footstool.”

The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter.

Rule in the midst of your enemies!

Your people will offer themselves freely

on the day of your power, in holy garments;

from the womb of the morning,

the dew of your youth will be yours.

The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind,

“You are a priest forever

after the order of Melchizedek.”

Genesis 14:17-20

After [Abram's] return  
from the defeat of Chedorlaomer  
and the kings who were with him,  
the king of Sodom went out to meet him  
at the Valley of Shaveh  
(that is, the King's Valley).

Genesis 14:17-20

And Melchizedek king of Salem  
brought out bread and wine.

(He was priest of God Most High.)

And he blessed him and said,  
“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,  
Possessor of heaven and earth;  
and blessed be God Most High,  
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!”

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Hebrews 7:1-10

For this Melchizedek, king of Salem,  
priest of the Most High God,  
met Abraham returning from  
the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,  
and to him Abraham apportioned  
a tenth part of everything.

Hebrews 7:1-10

He is first, by translation of his name,  
king of righteousness, and then he is also  
king of Salem, that is, king of peace.

He is without father or mother or genealogy,  
having neither beginning of days nor end of life,  
but resembling the Son of God  
he continues a priest forever.

Hebrews 7:1-10

See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils!

And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham.

But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.

Hebrews 7:1-10

It is beyond dispute that the inferior  
is blessed by the superior.

In the one case tithes are received  
by mortal men, but in the other case,  
by one of whom it is testified that he lives.

One might even say that Levi himself,  
who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham,  
for he was still in the loins of his ancestor  
when Melchizedek met him.

Mark 12:37b

And the great throng heard him gladly.

Mark 12:38-40

And in his teaching he said,  
“Beware of the scribes,  
who like to walk around in long robes  
and like greetings in the marketplaces  
and have the best seats in the synagogues  
and the places of honor at feasts,  
who devour widows’ houses  
and for a pretense make long prayers.

“They will receive  
the greater condemnation.”

Mark 12:41-42

And he sat down opposite the treasury  
and watched the people putting money  
into the offering box.

Many rich people put in large sums.

And a poor widow came  
and put in two small copper coins,  
which make a penny.

Mark 12:43-44

And he called his disciples to him and said to them,

“Truly, I say to you,  
this poor widow has put in more  
than all those who are contributing  
to the offering box.

“For they all contributed out of their abundance,  
but she out of her poverty  
has put in everything she had,  
all she had to live on.”

Ephesians 4:28

Let the thief no longer steal,  
but rather let him labor,  
doing honest work with his own hands,  
so that he may have something to share  
with anyone in need.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

We want you to know, brothers,  
about the grace of God that has been given  
among the churches of Macedonia,  
for in a severe test of affliction,  
their abundance of joy  
and their extreme poverty  
have overflowed in a wealth  
of generosity on their part.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

For they gave according to their means,  
as I can testify, and beyond their means,  
of their own free will,  
begging us earnestly for the favor  
of taking part in the relief of the saints –  
and this, not as we expected,  
but they gave themselves first to the Lord  
and then by the will of God to us.

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
that though he was rich,  
yet for your sake he became poor,  
so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Revelation 2:8-9

“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write...  
‘I know your tribulation and your poverty  
(but you are rich)...’”

Revelation 3:14,17

“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write...  
‘You say, I am rich,  
I have prospered, and I need nothing,  
not realizing that you are wretched, pitiful,  
poor, blind, and naked.’”

Not a matter of portion  
but of *proportion*!

Not a matter of how much given  
but of *how* given!

Again, not a matter of how much given  
but how much *of ourselves* given!

Psalm 110:3

Your people will offer themselves freely  
on the day of your power, in holy garments.

Romans 12:1

I appeal to you therefore, brothers,  
by the mercies of God,  
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,  
holy and acceptable to God,  
which is your spiritual worship.