

Sunday, September 25, 2022

## Scripture Reading: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

*Make your lives a masterpiece; you only get one canvas. —E.A. Bucchianeri*

**Y**ou may know Francesco Stephen Castelluccio better as Frankie Valli, whose popularity as a singer reached its peak in the 1960s and 1970s. He was the lead singer for The Four Seasons, and his rendition of “Can’t Take My Eyes Off You” reached number two in the charts in 1967. The song begins, “You’re just too good to be true / Can’t take my eyes offa you ...”

Sometimes, people or things which seem too good to be true live up to their billing.

Most of the time, however, experience tells us that the old adage is spot on: *If it seems too good to be true, it is.*

The phrase is the title of numerous books detailing the crimes, passions, addictions, abuse and shortcomings of those who were too good to be true.

*Too Good to Be True* is the title of the 1988 made-for-TV movie starring Loni Anderson, Patrick Duffy, Neil Patrick Harris and Julie Harris.

Father Ryan M. Adorjan addresses this theme in a blog post about the Italian writer, Alessandro Manzoni, “who did for the Italian language what Shakespeare did for English, and whose most famous book is called *I Promessi Sposi*, or *The Betrothed*.”

Adorjan explains: “There’s a scene in it near the very end where Cardinal Borromeo says to a ... priest who has really failed a young couple in his parish, and sent them into a world of hurt. The cardinal says to the priest, ‘Don’t you realize? Christ has no one but you to manifest himself, and if you are not *too good to be true*, no one will know that Christ Jesus is still here’” (emphasis added).

Yes, it is our highest calling to be *too good to be true*.

But what does a “too-good-to-be-true” Christian look like? The apostle Paul put it this way: You are someone willing to “lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:1-3).

A person who lives like that, who expresses these qualities, is, well ... *too good to be true*.

Why, such a person seems to be like Jesus Christ himself!

Exactly!

— Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: O God, help me to be more like Christ, who still is trying to call the world to himself. May I be someone who lifts up the spirit of Christ so that others may see your glory. Amen.*

*Blessings,  
Lead Pastor Ben Motz*

## Daily Bible Readings

**Sunday:** Acts 18:12–19:10

**Monday:** Ezekiel 4-7

**Tuesday:** Ezekiel 8-11

**Wednesday:** Ezekiel 12-14

**Thursday:** Ezekiel 15-18

**Friday:** Ezekiel 19-21

**Saturday:** Psalms 106-108

## TRUE OR FALSE?

The questions below are based on the gospel of Matthew. Answer each statement **True** or **False**. Circle the letter in the correct answer column. (For example, the first statement is false, so draw a circle around the **N** in the **False** column.) Then write each circled letter on the appropriately numbered line below to discover the secret word that tells why Jesus died.

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Jesus healed Peter's wife (Matthew 8:14).	E	<b>N</b>
2. Jesus fed the 5,000 with 2 loaves and 5 fish (14:17).	R	A
3. Peter saw Jonah and Elijah talking with Jesus when he was transfigured (17:3).	M	S
4. The rich, young ruler decided not to follow Jesus (19:22).	T	C
5. Jesus thought the temple had been turned into a house of robbers (21:13).	I	G
6. Famines and earthquakes are some of the signs of the end of the age, according to Jesus (24:7).	V	D
7. Jesus tells a story of the six wise and six foolish virgins (25:1-13).	F	A
8. Judas betrayed Jesus with a secret handshake (26:48).	P	L
9. The Roman governor of Judea who interrogated Jesus was Polonius (27:11-14).	W	O

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N  
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