Contemporary Comments on the Adult Sabbath School Lesson

[Title] More Clothing Imagery
[Use] June 18, 2011

How much would you pay to own Michael Jackson’s red and black “Thriller” jacket? On June 25 or 26, 2011 Julien’s Auction hopes to sell it for almost half a million dollars. (Some say it could fetch 1 million.) Julien’s will also be auctioning off a denim jacket worn by Bruce Springsteen on his ‘Born to Run’ tour, and clothing worn by guitarist SLASH.

There is quite a variety of famous clothing for sale these days. Zsa Zsa Gabor’s “police-slapping dress” is being auctioned off to help pay medical bills. She was stopped by law enforcement in 1989 in Beverly Hills. Or how about opera glasses believed to have been Abraham Lincoln’s? They sold at Sotheby’s for $22,000 in 1979, $424,000 in 2002 and now experts predict they might go for $700,000. Perhaps clothing from the Unabomber (Ted Kaczynski) might interest you. A hoodie and a pair of sunglasses will be auctioned off online with proceeds going toward the victim’s families.

You can also find iconic movie costumes from famous people like Charlie Chaplin (tramp bowler hat), Judy Garland (her pair of red ruby slippers worn in the movie, ‘The Wizard of Oz’), and Marilyn Monroe’s subway dress from the movie ‘The Seven Year Itch.’ Then there’s Barbara Streisand’s dress from ‘Hello Dolly’, Audrey Hepburn’s Ascot dress from ‘My Fair Lady’, and even several costumes from Julie Andrews when filming ‘The Sound of Music.’

There is one piece of clothing that you will never find online or at an auction. It was worn by one of the most important figures in history during a mockery trial and unjust execution. It is discussed in this week’s Sabbath school lesson. The Bible describes it like this: “Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. They said therefore among themselves, ‘Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be…’” (John 19:23-24 NKJV).

If there was ever a garment to be desired, if there was ever a piece of clothing to be sought after, it would be the garment of Christ. Soldiers cast lots to see who would be lucky enough to receive Jesus’ tunic. It seems like an incidental point in Scripture, but the writer includes it as a fulfillment of prophecy. “…that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: “They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots” (John 19:24 and Psalm 22:18).

You can have Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” jacket. I’ll take Christ’s garment of righteousness any day. “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord … For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness…” (Isaiah 61:10 NKJV).

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Paul Richardson, Director
Center for Creative Ministry
www.creativeministry.org
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