

Text Outline Mark 10:17-31

17 As Jesus started on his way,

A. a man

- 1.** ran up to him
- 2.** and fell on his knees before him.
- 3.** “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

B. **18** “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered.

- 1.** “No one is good—except God alone.
- 2.** **19** You know the commandments:
 - a) You shall not murder,*
 - b) you shall not commit adultery,*
 - c) you shall not steal,*
 - d) you shall not give false testimony,*
 - e) you shall not defraud,*
 - f) honor your father and mother. ^{1a}”*

C. **20** “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

D. **21** Jesus

- 1.** looked at him and loved him.
- 2.** “One thing you lack,” he said.
 - a) “Go, sell everything you have*
 - b) and give to the poor,*
 - c) and you will have treasure in heaven.*
 - d) Then come, follow me.”*

E. **22** At this

- 1.** the man’s face fell.
- 2.** He
 - a) went away sad,*
 - b) because he had great wealth.*

23 Jesus

F.

- 1.** looked around
- 2.** and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

G. **24** The disciples were amazed at his words.

H. But Jesus said again,

- 1.** “Children, how hard it is ^b to enter the kingdom of God!
- 2.** **25** It is easier for

- a) *a camel to go through the eye of a needle*
- b) *than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."*

I. ²⁶ **The disciples**

1. **were even more amazed,**
2. **and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"**

J. ²⁷ **Jesus**

1. **looked at them**
2. **and said,**
 - a) *"With man this is impossible,*
 - b) *but not with God; all things are possible with God."*

²⁸ **Then**

K. **Peter spoke up, "We have left everything to follow you!"**

L. ²⁹ **"Truly I tell you," Jesus replied,**

1. **"no one who has left**
 - a) *home*
 - b) *or brothers*
 - c) *or sisters*
 - d) *or mother*
 - e) *or father*
 - f) *or children*
 - g) *or fields*
2. **for**
 - a) *me*
 - b) *and the gospel*
3. ³⁰ **will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age:**
 - a) *homes,*
 - b) *brothers,*
 - c) *sisters,*
 - d) *mothers,*
 - e) *children*
 - f) *and fields—*
 - g) *along with persecutions—*
4. **and in the age to come eternal life.**
5. ³¹ **But many who are**
 - a) *first will be last,*
 - b) *and the last first."*

Conceptual Outline

Theme: Following Christ is a believer's first priority

I. Jesus' face to face encounter with the young ruler

A. The man

1. ran to Jesus
2. humbled himself
3. addressed Jesus as "Good teacher" and asked what he can do to inherit eternal life.

B. Jesus

1. revealed His identity as God
2. used the 10 commandments to reveal what the man lacks

a) Jesus skipped the first 4 commandments which command us to love God

b) Jesus reversed the order and put "honor your father and mother" last

c) Jesus changed "covet" to defraud referencing the more specific command in Lev 19:13

C. The man dropped "good" from teacher and held on to his arrogance that I kept the 10 commandments.

D. Jesus showed the man what he lacked and invited him to follow Him.

E. The man chose his wealth over God and went away sad.

Jesus taught about entering the kingdom of God

F. Jesus compared the difficulty for the rich to enter with a camel going through the eye of a needle.

G. The only way for anyone to be saved is by the work of God

1. with man it is impossible

2. all things are possible with God.

God is in debt to no one

H. Peter's boasting of his sacrifices to follow Jesus

I. Jesus

- 1. promised rewards of 100 times in this age and in eternity**
- 2. similarity & differences between the call to give up & list of rewards**

- a) wife is missing in both lists*
- b) father is missing in rewards of 100X*
- c) persecutions is in rewards list*

Questions & Potential Answers:

1. If you were to identify an ideal person in our society, what qualities would you want this person to have? Rate yourself in a scale of 0-10, how close are you to this idea? Looking at the scale, would you consider yourself a good or bad person?

Read Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18; Matthew 19:22

2. The passage records a man who had a face to face encounter with Jesus. This man was almost ideal.

How did the gospels writers describe him?

- young (Mt 19:22)
- a ruler (LK 18:18)
- he had great wealth (v.22)
- he ran up to Jesus & fell before him (v.17)
- he called Jesus "good" (v. 17)
- he kept the commandments since boyhood (v.20)

Without considering for a moment at his response to Jesus at the end, how would you rate this person in terms of being an ideal person that one would admire?

- 9.0

How did he rate himself?

- probably 9-10

3. Why did this man come to Jesus? What question did he ask Jesus?

- He wanted to have eternal life. He asked what he could do to inherit eternal life.

What did his question reveal about his spiritual condition? What might have influenced his search for God?

- He desired God and wanted more. However, his focus was on what he could do. His search for God might be influenced by his success, work ethics, values his placed on himself and his achievements. He just needed to know that one more thing he could do to be perfect even before God.

4. Jesus made several attempts to offer eternal life to this man and fulfill his stated wish. Can you identify His attempts?

- v.18 - He engaged the man in a discussion about good.
- v. 19 - Reminding him of the 10 commandments
- v. 21 - Inviting him to give up everything and to follow Him

What was Jesus trying to reveal to him with the discussion about "good"? How did he respond to Jesus' first attempt?

- Jews use the word "good" sparingly only in reference to God. When faced with God's goodness, the proper response is to reflect on our own sinfulness as was in the case of the prophet Isaiah (see Is 6:5). Jesus at least hinted that he was God by accepting the

title "good". He was also pointing the man to recognize his sin and need for God's help, to really humble himself before God admitting that he couldn't depend on himself to do anything to gain entrance to eternal life.

- Instead of hearing Jesus, the man changed his title for Jesus and dropped "good" from teacher in v.20. Now, he's saying, "OK, if only God is good & Jesus is not god, I'll drop this description from the title." He avoided facing Jesus as He was and himself as he was.

5. Jesus' second attempt was using the ten commandments which the man knew since he was a boy. Compare Jesus' list of commandments with Exodus 20:1-17. What are the differences?

- The four commandments that call us to love God were missing.
- The order for honoring your father & mother was put in last.
- The command "you shall not covet" was changed to a more elaborate interpretation as recorded in Lev. 19:13.

What was Jesus trying to communicate about this man's need?

- First & most importantly, if the man had asked why Jesus left out the first four, he might be able to recognize that he was missing a love for God.
- He might realized that his honoring of his parents may not be as complete as he had thought.
- He might reflect on how his wealth & success were achieved. Were they at the expense of cheating, defrauding his neighbors or people who worked for him.
- In other words, Jesus was trying to have him reflect on his sin. Was his self-evaluation all that accurate before the Almighty God?

How did the man respond to Jesus' second more subtle attempt?

- He was quick to brush aside the opportunity Jesus gave him and justified himself. "...all these I have kept since I was a boy." In other words, "I know & I've done it all. I don't need you to nag/remind me. You're wasting your breath."

6. Before making His third attempt, Mark made an interesting observation. What is it?

- v. 21 Jesus looked at him and loved him.

What is Mark trying to tell us about Jesus' heart?

- He had mercy on this man. He valued this man's efforts but wanted to give him more & lead him to a real relationship with God.

What was His third attempt?

- He pointed out directly that the man needed to put God first. His wealth, success, pride were standing in the way between him and God. He needed to give them up in order to have a genuine relationship with God.
- Jesus invited him to join Him possibly as the 13th disciple. What an honor! What love!

Why is this one thing the man lacked so important?

- Money was his master. It was his priority. It cannot coexist with letting God be the Master. (Mt 6:24)

By going away sad, what has this man given up for his money?

- Eternal life; relationship with God; journeying with Jesus; becoming one of the apostles; real joy and meaning of life.

7. Does everyone have to give up "everything" to follow Jesus?

- Yes. Though that specific thing may be different. It doesn't mean that we have to clean up our bank account and donate all to charity. God has to come first. He has to be our only Master & our only God (10 commandment). The willingness to give up and follow is for all believers.

What is the one thing that stands in the way between you and Jesus?

8. What were the disciples' reaction witnessing this man's departure?

- They were amazed.

Why were they so amazed?

- To them, wealth might have been a symbol of God's blessings. God has certainly blessed this man with much - youth, riches, status, wisdom, desire to know him. If someone like this man can't enter God's kingdom, who can?

9. What do you suppose was Jesus' reaction?

- Based on the record of His love for this man and His generous offer to become an apostle, one can only imagine the sadness and disappointment Jesus felt.

What was He trying to teach the disciples about entering the kingdom of God?

- He looked around and was concerned about His disciples. He didn't want them to focus on the difficulty from our human perspective. It is not just hard but impossible for man to do anything to reach God. He wanted us to know that all things are possible with God. God is active in making it possible for us to be saved. Letting go, letting God is the only way.

10. Consider your own spiritual journey. Was there times when it seemed impossible for you to give up everything and follow Him? How did God make it possible?

11. How did Peter react to the notion of giving up everything for Christ?

- He quickly reminded Jesus about his sacrifice to follow.

To Peter & to us, what giving up seems like a huge sacrifice. How did Jesus see it?

- Jesus taught that by giving up, we open ourselves up to be blessed, a hundred times in this age and in the age to come.

Take a closer look at the 2 lists, how are they different?

- Father is left out in the second list.

- Persecutions is added.
- Wife is missing from both lists.

What is Jesus trying to teach us about God's blessings?

- God is in debt to no one. What we give up for Him, He'll richly repay now through eternity.
- God the Father will be our Father. He's our greatest blessing.
- Even persecutions are blessings from Him.
- Wife & husband are one. Inseparable. Both need to mutually give up and receive blessings from God.

12. Share how this kind of blessing come true in your life or that of believers you know? Take a moment to consider what Jesus might want you to give up to follow Him now and consider how this giving up is a blessing for you.

Scriptural References:

Luke 18:18

¹⁸ A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Matthew 19:22

²² When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Isaiah 6:5

⁵ “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

Exodus 20:1-17

²⁰ And God spoke all these words:

² “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³ “You shall have no other gods before ^[a] me.

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ “You shall not murder.

¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ “You shall not steal.

¹⁶ “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Leviticus 19:13

¹³ “Do not defraud or rob your neighbor.

“Do not hold back the wages of a hired worker overnight.

Matthew 6:24

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

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