

MARK 10:23-31 THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

READ MK. 10:23-31

REVIEW:

17: Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"

- We notice several commendable things about this man.
- We also notice several things that are not commendable.
- He did not come seeking Jesus but the benefit of Jesus, eternal life.
- He would soon find out that what he desired would cost him everything.
- What he needed was another's righteousness.

- Eternal life is a quality of life, not a duration of life, though it is eternal. It is possessing the very life of God which He graciously grants to believers.

VS. 18: So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.

- He is really asking, do you acknowledge me as God, are you willing to receive the revelation that I am God, and thus good?
- If the man reasoned that Jesus was not God, then He was not good.
- If the man truly meant Jesus was good, then He is God.
- typically, it is a word of comparison. We base our value of "good" on other things, or other people and compare them. One is better than the other.
- But none are good but God. He is alone in goodness. (Rom.3:10-12)
- Real goodness is defined only by the character of God, He is benevolent, He is kind, He is merciful, He is love, He is Holy.

VS 19: You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'

- Jesus here brings before the rich young ruler the last 6 commandments, those dealing with your relationship with your fellow man.

VS 20: ²⁰ And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth."

- Pleasing God is more than doing, first it is being. Loving then obeying from the heart.
- He was still, after keeping all these commandments still empty, he was still void of the peace and contentment of God for in Matthew records a very telling thing in vs. 20, the man said, "what yet do I lack." He was still empty.

VS 21: Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

- ***Only Mark records that Jesus beholding him, love him.***
- ***One thing you lack. That one thing was an abandonment to God, a total surrender. which included his love and misplaced security he had placed on riches.***
- **This man sought for something he could do to gain eternal life. Just one more work.**
- **The problem was God does not want our labors, our sacrifices, even the riches he has given us He first wants our hearts, our love.**
 - **Prov. 23:26, My son, give me your heart!**
- **This man could have done all these things, kept all law and still be unsurrendered to the Lord, he could still be on the throne of his life.**
- **Jesus loved this man even when the man rejected Him for material**
- **Now notice Jesus did not offer the man a short cut, or an easy non costly way, "just ask me into your heart."**
- **Jesus asked total devotion and surrender to Himself, if He were not God, Jesus would be breaking the first two commandments.**
- **Also, the man came and bowed himself down to Jesus which if Jesus were not God, this would also be breaking the second commandment, but Jesus allowed it, thus acknowledging He is God.**

VS 22; *But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions*

- **This poor man could not forsake his love for wealth, his pride of life.**
 - **His riches did not bring him enough joy or contentment for he went away sorrowful.**
 - **This man seems to agree, to feel, the challenge of Christ was just and right on the mark.**
 - **His heart told him so, it witnessed to him it was so. for he went away sorrowful, grieved.**
 - **The arrow had his its mark. (Rom 7:9) I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died..**
 - **the rich young ruler refused to enter the kingdom of God when he refused to follow Jesus.**
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INTRO:

- **The rich young ruler went away sorrowful.**
- **I believe Jesus also was sorrowful, even as He wept over Jerusalem for rejecting Him.**
- **And so, we notice Jesus looking intently around, eyeing His disciples, reading them.**
- **Would they also leave Him. (JN. 6:66-67)**

I think the 3 great subjects in verses 17-31 is the often-repeated subject of possessions. (7). The thrice repeated phrase, "to enter the kingdom of God." And the 4 repeated lesson of total abandonment to the ownership of Jesus.

1. Possessions:

2. The kingdom of God, eternal life. 23, 24, 25

3. Total surrender of ownership. Vs. 21, 28, 29, 30

1) POSSESSIONS:

- Vs. 22b, 23a, 24b, 25b, 28b, 29, 30. In all these verses there is something mentioned of possessions.
- In the O. T. riches were a sign of the blessings and favor of God.
 - **Duet. 8:11-20, 6:10-15**
 - **1 Tim. 6:10, 17-19**
 - Ps. 62:10b, If riches increase, Do not set *your heart on them.*
 - MT. 6:24
- Jesus repeats His astonishing comment in vs 23 again in vs. 24.
- In the KJV he adds or clarifies His meaning of vs 23 by adding the phrase, "who trust" in riches.
- Now the newer versions it reads, Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God. Highlighting the fact that it is hard for anyone to enter the kingdom of God.
- Greatly astonished= beyond measure, to be expelled by a blow, to be blown away.

2) The kingdom of God, eternal life. 23b, 24b, 25b

- Coupled with the three verses is the question in vs. 26, "who then can be saved?"
- This leads us to believe that being saved and entering the kingdom of God is one and the same.
- And in vs 30 Jesus mentions the gaining of eternal life, which brings us back, or ties us together with the opening verse of this section, 17, when we have the question from the young seeker, "what can I do that I may inherit eternal life.
- The lesson seems to be clear. The gaining of eternal life, the entering into the kingdom of God.
- The disciples must have been greatly perplexed, what type of kingdom was this where man had to become as children and the wealthy could hardly get in at all.
- Regarding inclusion into the kingdom of God, for they are told a man must become as a child (15) and that riches can cause you to miss it.
- The disciples were astonished with what they had just witnessed.
 - The rich could not enter the kingdom of God without much difficulty, and there understanding and their hearts were still indoctrinated in the thought that wealth equaled God's approval.
 - If a rich, young, righteous leader not enter how could anyone enter?
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- Vs. 25: The camel through the eye of a needle.

- But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men *it is* impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."
- Salvation is impossible for men.
 - **Impossible:** without strength, impotent, powerless, weak.
 - See LK. 1:37 for with God nothing will be impossible.
- Man cannot in anyway save himself, he is totally impotent, powerless, blind to save himself.
- Many cannot be saved until God does the impossible. That which man cannot do God has done for us.
- The substitutionary death of God the Son at calvary. The conviction of the Holy Spirit leading us to repentance, giving faith to my heart, bring the life of God to my dead soul where once reigned doubt and death.
- How wonderful that salvation is possible for man if God is with him,

3) Total surrender of ownership. Vs. 21, 28, 29, 30

- We see that entering the kingdom of God has a cost.
- Now we should know that selling and abandoning everything guarantees one heaven.
- But I believe Jesus is teaching us here the true depth and commitment that is expected and rightly due to Him and His kingdom in salvation.
- It is an abandonment, a surrender of all things into His hands. It lives in the heart, all I have is given freely to Him should He ask me for it. It is a holy choice that has been empowered in my heart by the work of the Holy Spirit.
- He may ask me or He may not ask me to act on it, but in my heart Jesus has it all, and in open hands I offer them to Him.
- We have in these verses a view into the heart and mind of the Master whom we serve.
- When Jesus says in Mt. 11:28, "come unto Me all you who labor and are heavy laden. What does He mean, what does this look like?"
- When He adds, "take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, what does He mean, what does that look like?"
- When Jesus said to His early disciples in Mt. 4; "come follow Me" what did He mean, what would that look like.....**WE HAVE THE ANSWER HERE!**
- Christianity and the call of God on our lives is a much greater, deeper thing than we have imagined, especially in regards to American Christianity.

27 Then Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You."

- I believe their minds were linked back to the incident of the rich young ruler.
- How he was not willing to leave all, while they had.
- Let's look at what Matt. adds. 19:27 "what shall we have."

CONCUSION: