

MARK 10:23-31 THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

READ MK. 10:23-31

REVIEW:

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

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.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD, eternal life. 23b, 24b, 25b

- Along with the three verses that mention "the kingdom of God," is the question in vs. 26, "who then can be saved?"
- This leads us to believe that with the disciples, entering the kingdom of God and being saved was one and the same.
- Then 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, where 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 has the same meaning.
- The disciples must have been greatly perplexed, what type of kingdom was this where man had to become as child and the wealthy could hardly get in at all.
- Vs. 25: The camel through the eye of a needle.
- A Jewish proverb for something impossible or near impossible.
- It was not a gate in the city wall, this application did not appear until the 10 or 11th century.

- VS. 26; Who then can be saved?
- They were uneducated in the way of salvation and kingdom life, thus Jesus' statements of life as a follower. 21, 29-30
- VS. 27: 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, regarding the virgin conception, "for with God nothing will be impossible."
 - Mt. 3:9; For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.
- No amount of prayers, fasting, church going, bible reading, rosary praying will earn salvation for us.
- Man 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.
- Man cannot in anyway save himself, he is totally impotent, powerless, blind to save himself. Yet we have a part, what God will not do, we must do.
 - Phil. 2:12-13; work out your own salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who works in you..
- How wonderful that salvation is possible for man if God is with him.

TOTAL SURRENDER. WHAT KINGDOM LIFE LOOKS LIKE. Vs. 21, 28, 29, 30;

Vs. 28, Then Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You."

- "**LEFT:**" to send away, bid go away, to yield with the idea of abandoning.
- Notice Matthew records a more from Peter which reveals a bit of their hearts regarding riches.
 - Mt. 19:27; Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. **Therefore, what shall we have?**"
- Peter, Andrew, James, John had left a successful fishing business, Matthew left a very lucrative source of income as a Roman tax collector, this they did to follow an unknown, poor itinerant preacher.
- What a blessing to know that Peter and the others soon were delivered of the power of possessions, and gained knowledge of the kingdom life.
- For notice Acts 3:6, "silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

VS. 29, 30

- We see that entering the kingdom of God has a cost.
 - Lk. 14:28-29, Mt. 16:24-26
- Now we should know that selling and abandoning everything does not guarantee the gaining of heaven.
- It is not the leaving, but the cleaving!
- But I believe Jesus is teaching us here what is the true depth of commitment and allegiance that is expected, and rightly due to Him, and life in His kingdom.
- It is an abandonment, a surrender, of all things into His hands. It is a heart issue.
- 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.
- Because of our cleaving, which displays itself in surrender, whatever God puts His finger on, is to be given up to Him.
- 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.
- Also notice this giving up is not for my sake, what I may get, but given up for Jesus' sake and the kingdoms. (VS. 29)
- We have in these verses a view into the heart and mind of the Master whom we serve.

- Sometimes our welcome and inclusion into the family of God will cost us the exclusion of your earthly family.
- It is so easy to miss this part of the gospel call, do we realize this call as normal kingdom principals:
- I think this so human of us, to not realize the cost, especially when we read certain texts such as;
- 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.
- Notice the addition of "persecutions" in vs. 30.
 - Acts 14:22, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."
 - 2 Tim. 3:12 all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
- **Vs. 31:**
- **First:** meaning either first in time or place, let the context define.
- **Last:** either last in time or place, let the context define.
- Jesus may be harking back to the earlier verse , 9:35 "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."
- Or the first to hear may be the last to accept, and visa-versa, the last may be the first to accept. (Matt. 20:16) Jews & Gentiles.
- Those who seem to be the least in the eyes of the world will be the first in the eyes of the kingdom of God.
- Faithfulness is of the greatest importance here. Being truly faithful over what may seem to be a small opportunity, is of much greater importance and reward than not being faithful over a large opportunity.
- Being despised and discounted in the eyes of the world for Jesus sake is a privilege, being treasured in the eyes of Jesus is such a blessing.
 - **1 Cor. 1:26-29.**
- How many when they come to Christ look small and unimportant, but end up being pillars in the house of God.
- And how many who seem to have something real of God end up in ship wreck.
 - 2 Tim. 4:9-10. Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica.

CONCUSION:

- **To Follow Christ:** Eternal life consists in the proper relation of the soul to God, Who is eternal life.
- Oned to Him, in union and communion with Him.
- And in that relation Jesus is Lord and Master over all, all we have is surrendered to Him which frees us to follow where He leads.
- These verses let us know eternal life is the life of God received into the soul by the grace of God, and expresses itself in abandonment.

- **It is a relationship with Christ, Who said, I am the way the truth the Life.**
- **Eternal life is knowing Him personally and, in the relationship, Christ Jesus is Lord of all, all I have is His, His to command, whether to sell or to hold.**
- **Let us take up the attitude of our dear brother & apostle found in Phil 3:12-14 .**
- ***Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have ^[b]apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.***