

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

WEALTH (MARK 10:17-31) "GOOD TEACHER"

A man identified by the other Gospel accounts as a **rich young ruler** (Matthew 19:20; Luke 18:18) **ran up to Jesus, knelt before Him, and applied the term "good" when addressing Him.**

- It was not common in this time to call anyone good because it implied **sinlessness and complete goodness. Only God alone would have been referred to as "good."**

"...WHAT MUST I DO...?"

The rich young ruler's question revealed that he believed eternal life was something earned or deserved. He acknowledged Jesus' deity, yet his approach to Jesus was not "Jesus save me" but "Jesus show me how to save myself."

- He missed that **salvation is received through a relationship with Jesus and not achieved through human effort or merit.**

"WHY DO YOU CALL ME GOOD?"

Jesus was not refuting His deity or goodness. He asked this question to get the young man to reflect upon what He just said, as if asking, "Do you know what you are saying by calling me good?"

- We are all naturally prone to speak and act out of emotion, but **Jesus wants us be sure that our words do not outweigh our actions and that our passions do not outweigh our commitments.**

"YOU KNOW THE COMMANDMENTS..."

Jesus asked the young man to consider the commandments that pertain to how we treat one another. The young man, like Paul before his conversion (Philippians 3:6), **thought that he had kept the commands perfectly.**

- It is possible he had kept the commandments the way they were interpreted, but **God looks at the heart as well as the actions.**

"WHAT DO I STILL LACK?" (MATTHEW 19:20)

Jesus looked at him and loved Him, knowing his life was empty. Jesus wanted the man to see that contentment was not found in the things of this world but in a relationship with Him.

- Jesus promised treasures in Heaven if he would shed his earthly treasures and follow Him. However, **wealth was his god**, and he was unwilling to trade it for the God of the Bible.

"THEN WHO CAN BE SAVED?"

The disciples' confusion about Jesus' teaching stemmed from the common belief of their time that to have wealth was a sign of God's favor.

- Jesus says **someone can hinder a person from entering the Kingdom**, not because it is inherently evil but because **someone who already has everything may not have a childlike dependence on God.**

"WITH MAN IT IS IMPOSSIBLE..."

Jesus uses the hyperbole of the largest animal in their land fitting through the smallest opening of a needle to show that **our attempts to earn salvation are futile.**

- Earning salvation is as impossible** as a camel fitting through the eye of a needle, **but with God and His plan of redemption through Jesus, it is possible.**

"LOOK, WE HAVE LEFT EVERYTHING AND FOLLOWED YOU."

It is natural for us to wonder if our sacrifices are noticed. Jesus assures Peter that the physical possessions that have been "lost" will be repaid with something greater.

- Though following Christ is costly, when we weigh everything that this world has to offer, **there is no comparison to what we gain in eternity. It is worth it!**

A SERVANT TO ALL (MARK 10:32-45) HE WILL HELP US IN OUR TIME OF NEED

Verse 32 paints the picture of the disciples lagging behind out of fear and confusion. Though they were flawed and afraid, **they still followed.**

- Despite our flaws, Jesus invites us all to follow Him. We are not to stop following Him or never start following because of fear and confusion (Psalm 121:1-2).

THE PASSION OF CHRIST

Jesus told His disciples about His crucifixion and resurrection in Mark 8:31 and mentions here that His own people will hand Him over to the Gentiles. He would be **humiliated, beaten, and killed out of love for the very people who betrayed Him.**

- The early church **showed commitment and strength as they shared in the sufferings of Jesus** (Acts 5:41).

"ALLOW US TO SIT AT YOUR RIGHT AND... LEFT"

Despite Jesus talking about the suffering that awaited Him, **the disciples still thought Jesus would raise up a political kingdom** in Jerusalem.

- Brothers James and John asked Jesus if they could have a seat of high position in Jesus' administration. They already **thought they were "greatest"** (Mark 9:33-34) and **wanted Jesus to confirm by assigning them high positions.**

"ARE YOU ABLE..."

The word *baptism* gives the idea of being overwhelmed, so **Jesus was asking James and John if they were prepared to suffer as He would.**

- Whether they understood what they were agreeing to or not, **James was the first apostle to be martyred** (Acts 12:1-2) and **John would survive immersion in a vat of boiling oil only to be exiled to Patmos.**

TRUE GREATNESS

Jesus called the disciples over to tell them about true greatness. Their desire for position and status showed they did not fully understand the nature of Jesus.

- The world uses any means necessary to gain power and authority and then "lord" it over others, but Jesus says, **"it is not so among you." We are not to operate the way the world does.**

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Jesus showed His followers humble service in everything He did. The only one who deserved to be called Lord had dedicated Himself to serving others and would go on to **"give his life as a ransom for many."**

- "This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters"** (1 John 3:16).

BELIEVING IS SEEING (MARK 10:46-52)

MODEL FOR PRAYER

The blind beggar was not swayed by those trying to keep him quiet. He cried out all the more.

- First, there was not anything that would stop him from crying out to the Lord. Then, he recognized his need for mercy and, finally, made known his specific request for sight. **Jesus knows our needs and desires a relationship with us.**

JESUS CALLED HIM TO COME TO HIM

Jesus called the man, and he **"threw off his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus."** His outer garment was not something most beggars owned, and yet he cast it away.

- Mark tells this story to **contrast Bart's devotion in casting away his only valuable possession with that of the rich young ruler who was unwilling to cast away anything to gain what he wanted.**

"YOUR FAITH HAS SAVED YOU"

Believing is seeing. It was his faith that made him able to see.

- His faith made him call out. With faith, he humbly acknowledged who Jesus was, submitted to Him, and made his request known. **Once healed, it was his faith that propelled him to immediately follow Jesus.**

HINDRANCES

- Let us not be so quick to dismiss the story of the rich young ruler because we may not be rich, young, or rulers. Instead, let us look at our lives for anything coming between us and the Lord that needs to be cast aside.
- Jesus looks at us with love and compassion, knowing what we lack.**
- Do we see the need for a Savior?**
- Do I value earthly treasures more than heavenly ones?
- Do I find true greatness and wealth in service to Christ and others?
- Am I hindering anyone from coming to Christ by my words or actions?
- There are two options to consider: Will I follow Jesus or walk away grieved?**