

Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life." Mark 10:29–30 (ESV)

*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*  
Romans 8:18 (ESV)

*"But many who are first will be last, and the last first."* Mark 10:31 (ESV)

## 5. Conclusion

1. Money can be a subtle and powerful idol that we worship instead of God.
2. Wealth is more of a spiritual liability than an asset.
3. Trying to save myself is just like trying to put a camel through a needle.
4. Thankfully we have a God who does the impossible. He saves sinners, even wealthy ones.
5. It is better to be in the shoes of Peter who left it all behind and gained Jesus than be in the shoes of the rich young ruler who kept it all but lost Jesus.

### Life Group Questions

1. Read Mark 10:17-30. At the end of the story, would you rather be in the shoes of the rich young ruler or Peter? Why?
2. From the outside, it seemed like the rich young ruler had it all together. He was rich, which was a sign of God's blessing in Jewish culture. He humbly approached Jesus. He followed the law, at least on the surface. Jesus shocked him by asking him to sell all his possessions and follow him. Why did Jesus challenge him to do that? Should everybody do the same thing?
3. The rich young ruler made money and status idols in his life. In the following verses, what else can we turn into an idol? What happens when we worship our idol instead of God? Why do we demonize our idol once we obtain it? Read Philippians 3:19; 2 Samuel 13:1-15; Colossians 3:5
4. In a similar way to the rich young ruler, Zacchaeus also had his issues with money. Read about Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus (Luke 19:1-9). What similarities do you see between the rich young ruler and Zacchaeus' story? How were their steps of obedience different?

# MARK THE KING AND THE CROSS

## Mark 10:17-30 – Jesus Does The Impossible

November 17, 2019

### 1. Money can be a subtle and powerful idol.

*And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*  
Mark 10:17 (ESV)

*And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone." Mark 10:18 (ESV)*

*...as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."*  
Romans 3:10–12 (ESV)

*"You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.' " And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth."*  
Mark 10:19–20 (ESV)

*"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire."*  
Matthew 5:21–22 (ESV)

*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart."*  
Matthew 5:27–28 (ESV)

And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Mark 10:21–22 (ESV)

#### How do you know if money has become an idol in your life?

1. Do I find myself envying those who have more than me?
2. Am I a spender or a miser?
3. Am I a giver and a tither?

## 2. Money is more of a spiritual liability than an asset.

And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" Mark 10:23 (ESV)

#### Why did Jesus see wealth as a spiritual liability?

1. It is easy for those who are rich to live with a sense of false security about the future.

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 1 Timothy 6:17 (ESV)

2. It is easy for the rich to be bound to this world.  
(Matt. 6:21, Luke 12:16-21)
3. It is easy for the rich to become selfish.

#### Why did people in Jesus' day see wealth as a spiritual asset?

1. They believed God always showed his spiritual favor by material blessings.

Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. Psalm 128:1–2 (ESV)

And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" John 9:2 (ESV)

2. They believed the rich could purchase more offerings to please God.

It is good to do alms rather than to treasure up gold for alms deliver from death and this will purge away every sin. —Book of Tobit.

Alms giving is more excellent than all offerings and is equal to the whole law. —Talmud

And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." Mark 10:24–25 (ESV)

And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" Mark 10:26 (ESV)

## 3. God can do the impossible.

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." Mark 10:27 (ESV)

"Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." Mark 10:15 (ESV)

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV)

## 4. Would you rather be in the shoes of Peter or the rich young ruler?

Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." Mark 10:28 (ESV)