

## Marching Orders Pt 3

### Mark 10:17-25- Sold Out before Sent Out

- Once a person has **come to Christ** and been **rooted in Christ** next they are expected to **go out for Christ**, this is the last section of our **Win-Disciple-Send** series. This doesn't necessary mean now you will go and start a church, bible study, or a new ministry somewhere, it simply means you are now expected to represent Jesus in the gifts and talents that the Lord has blessed you with. So if you don't belong to a local church you need one, if you are in a church but not in a ministry you join one, this is how God sharpens, perfects and uses what He's given to us for His glory, as it does no good to exorcize our gifts on just ourselves we need people to bless also.
- In order for us to do this there is something which must occur within us and that is having the right attitude and perspective, what do you mean? Going out for Christ means we are looking to serve others, its service you and I have been won to, trained for, and now expected to go and do, and for that to happen I must adopt the attitude that it is not about me but about Him. Let's see why that is so difficult > **Mk 10:17-25**- this of course is the story of the Rich young ruler.
- The young ruler comes running up to Jesus bows down and asks "**Good Teacher what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life**" at first glance one would think he's asking a salvation question, but Jesus sees much deeper into what he is really asking. Initially Jesus doesn't answer his question directly but asks him a question "**why do you call me good**"? No one is good but One and that is God, what Jesus is asking was are you acknowledging Me as God, and if so Am I your God, it's quite obvious the young ruler had been raised to know how to speak to elders, priests, those in authority, but when it comes to **surrender** Jesus isn't interested in **manners** or **morals**.
- Jesus goes on to say that he knew the commandments "**do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, don't lie, don't cheat, honor your parents**" **V20** he answers that he has done all these things. It would seem outwardly that in every way he was an ideal young man possessing fine qualities like manners and morals, and some desire in his heart for spiritual things or he wouldn't had run to Jesus and bowed to Him asking about eternal life.
- **V21** this is where the intents of his heart begin to come out, as Jesus looks at him and scripture says "**He loved him**" Jesus is filled with compassion as He gazes upon the yoUng man, for although the man on the outside looks like the definition of success, but in reality he was empty. He had climbed to the top of the ladder of success, only to find out that his ladder was leaning against the wrong building, for Jesus says "**one thing you lack**". Sometimes all it takes is that one thing, for in that one thing everything else hinges upon it, and it's like that for this young man.

- Jesus tells him to go and sell everything he had and give it to the poor, you see although this man had everything going for him on the outside > he was young, moral, mannerable, rich, religious, and a ruler, but despite all these things he still wasn't righteous, even though he thought he was. This goes back to **V20** when Jesus quoted the fulfillment of the Law in **V19** and the young man said "all these things I have done from my youth" he was all about the "**doing**" in order to earn, and therefore deserve eternal life, but that was all superficial thinking.
- He had missed it and Jesus was corrected that mistake right now, as He says in doing you missed something, and that is "**if you want to be free to come to Me, then to get rid of those things near and dear to you**" oh oh. He thought he had done enough to merit salvation, but we can never do enough apart from Jesus to receive salvation, that only comes after we've emptied ourselves in order for Jesus to come and fill us with His Will, His Word, and His Way.
- All along when we read this story you can mistakenly think that the young ruler is asking a salvation question but he really wasn't, he might of thought he was but he wasn't. He was asking a surrender question, that is what determines whether we'll give our lives to Jesus, be Discipled in Jesus, and go and serve others for Jesus, it all starts here > "**will I surrender**". **V22** this is when the man becomes sad, and he leaves Jesus presence sorrowful, this is the only time in scripture where we read a person came and kneeled before Jesus and leaves worse off than when he came, and all because he refused to see things the same way that Jesus saw things.
- The part he missed was that instead of only having treasures on earth, where moth and erosion and thieves can take, he would have treasures in heaven that will last him forever, he completely overlooked that part and he focused solely on what he would lose instead of what he would gain. But he was looking at things with fleshly eyes and not spiritual eyes, because the stuff didn't have anything to do with us monetarily, it was all about what is in our hearts, as he was sorrowful because he had many possessions, and he didn't want to live without them.
- Another thing he missed is Jesus never tells us to give something up without replacing it with something better, notice he tells him after selling everything then take up the cross and follow Me. The things he was doing wasn't satisfying him which is why he came running to Jesus in the first place, but if he did what the Lord said then he would have satisfaction because he now would have spiritual purpose for in taking up the cross means dying to self and then living for the Lord, as the things He created us for will now be revealed so that we can fulfill them.
- **V23-25** Jesus closes with why it's so hard to be "**sold out for Jesus**" as this is where I like to think the phrase came from, as it means were completely surrendered to Him, our money, time, talents, dreams, relationships, ad possessions, everything about us belong to Him, and is readily available for His purposes. It all comes down to fear, we are by nature a fearful bunch, it started back in the garden when the serpent planted seeds of doubt in Eve's mind about God's goodness, and from that instance we have sought to try and do things our own way.

- Let's not repeat the young ruler's mistake of not seeing things in the way that Jesus sees them, let's not let the thought of being "**sold out**" scare us because we don't quite understand God's goodness and His genuine love for us. Let's not like Eve doubt God's character and think we can provide for our needs better than He can, or muster enough wisdom and strength to do life well on our own, let's not be content to settle for only eternal life when Jesus is offering much more.