

The Baptism

Good morning, my name is Pastor Jonathan and we have the great joy of beginning our service with Baptism, but before we baptize, Let's spend a few moments talking about what Baptism is and is not.

1. Baptism is first a memorial.

- It's a memorial of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- When one is baptized they are painting a picture that they have joined Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.

2. Baptism is a testimony.

- Those being baptized are telling everyone they believe in the sinless life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- That They have repented of their sins
- **AND** they are inviting you to follow their example.
- Maybe today, you are a believer of Jesus Christ, but you have never proclaimed your new life to your church family, today the one being baptized is inviting you to follow in their example.
- In the same way, there is nothing salvific about baptism, there is nothing special in the water, it is a testimony of what God has already done in the life of the one being baptized.

3. A Question For You: Who is it that is doing the baptizing?

- The Church.
- The church is witnessing, affirming, and co-signing this event!
- As well, as you are agreeing, with your presence, TO HELP disciple the one being baptized.
- So no matter who is doing the dunking, the church is the one baptizing.

Mark 10.13-31 — How We Come To Jesus Matters!

Introduce Baptisee and Their Testimony

Today, is a special day, we have a Father and Son coming to be baptized.

First, Corey Pollard, is coming forward for believer's baptism.

Corey is married to Mattie, and they have been attending Harvey for a long while.

Corey didn't really know about coming to church, but he began coming with Mattie, and then he began going to a Friday Morning Small Group with some other men from our church...and for the first time saw what real faith lived out in men looked like.

Then, when his son Pike came home from VBS and told his parents He was ready to follow Jesus, they began going through a book with Pike on next steps, and Corey decided Hey, I'm ready to make my faith public too!

So Corey is coming first, to make His profession of faith before you.

Baptisee: So **Corey**, What Is Your Confession? - Jesus is Lord!

Upon your profession of faith, WE baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Raised with Christ to walk in the Newness of Life!

Introduce Baptisee and Their Testimony

Next, **Pike Pollard**, is coming forward for believer's baptism.

Pike is _ years old and is in _ Grade.

Like I said a moment ago, Pike realized at VBS when The Gospel was shared that He was ready to follow Jesus Christ.

Baptisee: So **Pike**, loud and proud, What Is Your Confession? - Jesus is Lord!

Upon your profession of faith, WE baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Raised with Christ to walk in the Newness of Life!

Get In The Game Spill

Good Morning! My Name Is Pastor Jonathan and Today is Get In The Game Sunday!

Here at Harvey we have 4 Core Values for Members.

Worship, Share, Care, and Serve.

We believe that:

- Every Member Should Worship Regularly
- Every Member Should Share Their Faith Regularly
- Every Member Is Responsible To Care for Other Members
- AND Every Member Is To Serve In At Least One Area Of The Church

So today is our annual Sunday, and we're asking everyone, even if you're already serving, to sign up for a one-year commitment in one area of the church to serve.

The Areas of Service That We Are Asking For People To Sign Up In Are:

- Our Care Team
- Children's Church Team
- Coffee Team
- College Meal Team
- Event Team
- Kitchen Ministry Team
- Nursery Team
- Safety Team
- Tech Team
- Teller Team
- Welcome Team
- Worship Team

Some of these teams require background checks or further training, but if you sign up, we will help you complete these requirements!

So today, if you are a member of Harvey, today is the day to sign up! We're asking for a one-year commitment...so if you figure out you don't like where you signed up...then next year you will have another opportunity to sign up for a different location!

Mark 10.13-31 — How We Come To Jesus Matters!

If you're not yet a member and would like to serve, we would welcome you to sign up as well!

So I want to read a scripture for us, and allow you to spend a few moments praying over where God might have you serve, and then I will pray over us as well. And before you leave today...

LET'S GET IN THE GAME TOGETHER!

Ephesians 4:10-14

10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,

12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Let's Spend A Few Moments In Prayer...

God, we recognize that you have given each of us as good gifts to the church, with our unique giftings, to serve the church.

God you have given us as good gifts, to be equipped, so that we might build up the body, and so that we can fight to attain unity of the faith!

So that we are one day presented as mature saints before you!

God would you take these people whom you have esembled...

Would we serve to the Glory of Your Name...

And would you do far more than we could ever imagine as you grow us in selflessness and love for one another.

We pray these things in your name! ***AMEN!***

Pastoral Prayer

Holy and Righteous Father, we meet with you this morning as a sinful people who have Hope only in the Name of Jesus Christ, Your Son.

We pray this morning as sinful people that we would rest in You alone.

We recognize that just as a branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, there is nothing good in us, and no fruit can be produced apart from the Holy Spirit living within us.

God, would you give us the wisdom to quit trying to be morally good, but that we would abide in Christ alone..

God, would you give us the hunger to remain attached to the true vine, Jesus Christ, so that we may be used to produce fruit for Your Kingdom?

God, it is my prayer that the Body of Christ located at Harvey Baptist would be a body that bears much fruit for the Glory of God Alone, and this is only possible if we rest in Christ Alone.

God, when the world causes us to be distracted, discouraged or angered, would You recall in our minds Your Great Love for us and let us abide in it?

God, as we rest in your love, would we love one another as you have loved us?

God, this morning, would you strengthen our faith from the hearing of Your Word, and guard me from speaking error?

I pray that this morning you would give me an anointing from the Holy Spirit so that the Word is presented in a way that honors You and feeds Your Church.

**God the power is in Your Word and The Spirit alone, not in me.
Would You speak to us now?**

Amen

The Sermon

Welcome

Good morning!

My Name is Pastor Jonathan.

And I want you to know you are welcome here today.

Everyone is welcome here at Harvey!

And I am so grateful that you are here!

Illustration

Now, It's funny how things change when you get older.

Like, when I was in High School, I would be out late for football games, and I would get home, and my mother would be waiting for me, to ask about my day and the game, and all I wanted to do when I got home was, to be left alone and go to my room.

Then, when I got to college, I would often get back from a late night of studying, and my dorm room would be filled with 8 guys all playing Halo on X-Box, and all I wanted to do was for them to leave so I could go to bed.

But then I moved to Fort Worth all by myself for my Master's, and I didn't know anyone...and I lived by myself...so when I would go home, and no one was there, the silence was deafening... So, I would call my mom or dad, or go sit at a coffee shop until they closed, just so I didn't have to sit at home alone.

And now, like many of us, my evenings often run pretty late, so on days when I've been gone from the house for 12 or 13 hours, all I want to do on the way home is call my parents and check on them.

And when I get home, I'm first greeted by my dog, who is excited to see me.

And she always meets me at my truck and walks me to the door.

BUT THEN when I open that door...my little children come running... and they grab my leg, and they want a hug, and they want me to sit down on the couch and read them a book, or so they can tell me about some exciting craft they made...or sometimes to tattle on another sibling...

Mark 10.13-31 — How We Come To Jesus Matters!

And at this stage in life...when I get home...I can't wait for my children and my wife to come running to me...Like I don't want to go home and be alone...***I want them.***

It's funny how, as we get older, our perspectives change...
Like if I could go back to **2001**, when I got home from football games...I'd just want to sit and talk with my mother...
But my perspective at that time failed to see what was truly valuable.

Transition:

In fact, that's exactly what we're going to see in God's Word today...
that as our perspective changes from being focused on ourselves, we recognize ***where true value is***...that's it's not in the temporary but it's in the eternal.

In Fact, Our Big Idea for Today, is this:

How We Come To Jesus Matters.

We Must Come To Jesus Completely, Helplessly, Dependent Upon Him!

Transition

So, if you have your Bibles, take them out and turn to ***The Gospel of Mark***, and we'll be in ***Chapter 10, vs. 13-31*** today.

We'll begin by reading vs. 13-16

I. Helpless Dependence on God (10.13-16)

Let the Children Come to Me

13 And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them.

14 But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

15 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

16 And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

A. They Were Bringing Children To Him (vs. 13a)

Mark 10.13-31 — How We Come To Jesus Matters!

Last week, we saw that Jesus and His Apostles were headed to Judea, and as they got into the region, Jesus was met with crowds once again, who just wanted to be near Him.

And part of these crowds included people, who were bringing their little children to Jesus, to have Him touch them in order to bless them.

This was a common practice in this day, Jewish parents would bring their children to the local synagogue, so that they elders might pronounce a blessing on them.

This was not children being baptized or anything of that sort...

This was just a Jewish custom that dated back all the way to **Genesis 48**, where an elder would pray a prayer of blessing over a young child. So these parents, were brining their young children, to Jesus to bless them.

B. The Disciples Sent The Children Away (vs. 13b)

However, these parents were met with an obstacle...**The Apostles**. The Apostles began to send them away...

And you have to remember, in this day and age, children were considered of little importance, because so many of them did not make it past the age of 5 without the modern medicine that we now have even available over the counter.

So the Apostles, thinking they were protecting Jesus and His valuable time, began to tell the parents:

- "Be on your way!"
- "Jesus doesn't have time for you and your baby today!"
- "Oh, by the way, don't forget your stroller"...
- "Peace be with you!"

C. Jesus Was Indignant (vs. 14)

But WHEN Jesus saw what was happening, He was indignant! AND I love that word...it means that Jesus was angry...that He was grieved greatly over what was happening!

You know the things that cause us to grieve, tell us a lot about what kind of people we are.

Mark 10.13-31 — How We Come To Jesus Matters!

And what causes Jesus to grieve, tells us a lot about Him.
Jesus, God in the flesh, placed a great value on children, even in a culture that did not!

D. Only those who come to Jesus helplessly dependent will enter the kingdom of God (vs. 15)

You know when we read this passage, “*let the children come to me*”...
We can picture Jesus being soft spoken and kind and compassionate...

But Mark literally just told us that He was angry!

That He was grieved over this process....

So I think it's fair that we read Jesus's words as sharp and direct...

“*Let the little children come to me...don't stop them...*”

F

urther, Jesus said, “*for to such, belongs the kingdom of God*”.

NOW, what did Jesus mean by this?

Jesus was saying that these babies, these little children, they were coming to Him, as those who were **hopelessly dependent upon Him**.

John MacArthur made the argument that this statement includes no caveats, no conditions, or no restrictions to it.

He didn't say children who have parents who are faithful Jews...

- or those who have been circumcised...

- Or even those who are present on this particular occasion!

Luke's Gospel even says “**children such as these**”.

So we can know, that Jesus is referring to all little children, who come to Him with faith like a child!

E. Jesus blessed the little children abundantly (vs. 16)

Further, Jesus took these little children and blessed them!

Think about this:

Jesus would not bless people outside of His Kingdom...

And Jesus says...to these young children, who are before the age of understanding the depth of their sin....**TO THEM BELONGS THE KINGDOM OF GOD!**

WHY WOULD JESUS SAY THIS?

Mark 10.13-31 — How We Come To Jesus Matters!

I would make the argument, that Jesus is saying that these young children, are blessed by the grace of God before they reach the age where they understand good and evil.

Sometimes we've called that they age of accountability...not that this is a specific age, it varies from child to child, but that this is before a child understands they are a sinner...and God is a good Savior

I believe this can bring us all great comfort.

That with babies and young children, before they understand the reality of their sin, and before they are able to understand the grace of God, then they **are under** God's gracious, special care.

And this is comforting, because we've all known people who have lost children...and the question often is...where does a child go when it dies? Like if they haven't been able to repent yet...

And if we read Jesus' words here...it gives us great comfort... because God in the flesh literally says...to such belongs the Kingdom of God!

As **John MacArthur**, wisely points out, this does not mean that babies and children are not sinners....sinfulness is not a condition that we enter into, but a condition that we are all born into after **Genesis 3**. We are born sinners....but babies and young children, according to Jesus here....to them belongs the Kingdom of God!

AND This is not to say that little children have salvation and lose it... However, this is to say that God holds little children and babies in a condition of grace, if they should die, before they reach an age where they become accountable to Him for their sinfulness.

And In a culture, that had no value on children, Jesus placed much value on children!

Jesus said bring the little children to me!
And Jesus blessed them.

A survey conducted some years ago, indicated that 19 out of 20 people who become Christians, did so before they turned 25.
19 out of 20!

And the statistics...past 25 go down tremendously!

Mark 10.13-31 — How We Come To Jesus Matters!

- What a wake-up call for parents...
- What a wake up call for children's small group leaders
- What a wake-up call for churches on the importance of children's ministry!

Someone once said, whoever wants the next generation the most, will get them.

Church: We **MUST** go all in on producing the next generation to glorify God!

Jesus wanted them; how desperately should we want them, for Him!

Let's keep reading in vs. 17-22 to see what happens next.

II. An Example Of Not Being Hopelessly Dependent on God (10.17-22)

The Rich Young Man

17 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?"

18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.

19 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.'"

20 And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth."

21 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."

22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

A. A man falls before Jesus, calls Him Good, and asks about eternal life (vs. 17)

So, as Jesus and His Apostles were packing up to leave this area on their way to Jerusalem, all of a sudden, this man comes running up to Jesus, and kneels before Him.

Now, In this culture, this would have been **a strange thing!**

Mark 10.13-31 — How We Come To Jesus Matters!

For one, men in this culture who were wealthy, did not run. It was considered undignified...

Second, you didn't just kneel before anyone, and certainly as a wealthy man, you didn't bow before those whom the religious elite had declared to be a false prophet.

Even further, this man referred to Jesus as a good teacher! Surely this would have caused quite a scene!

Can you just picture this for a moment?

Jesus is loading up the donkey to head out of town, and here come this man who is surely known, who is wealthy, who surely has the nice garments on...he's got them cinched up so he can run...and he comes sprinting to Jesus...and out of breath, he falls on his knees before Jesus....and says out of breath....

"Good....teacher... *What must I DO to inherit eternal life?*"

What a scene this must have caused!

B. Jesus questions His intent of the use of "good" (vs. 18)

But look at how Jesus responds in **vs. 18!**

Jesus says, "Why do you call **ME** good?..."

No one is good except God alone!

In other words, Jesus is saying...*don't you know that by calling me good, you are calling me "God"?*

Of course, Jesus was perfectly good because He was God in the flesh...

But Jesus was saying...don't go throw this word around half-heartedly...think before you speak...do you really understand **WHO I AM** and **WHAT I HAVE COME TO DO?**

Understand that I am **TRULY GOD and TRULY MAN!**

C. Jesus confirms this man knows the commandments (vs. 19)

Mark 10.13-31 — How We Come To Jesus Matters!

Then in **vs. 19**, Jesus gets to the heart of this man's question, "*What must I do to inherit eternal life?*".

Jesus says, You know the commandments...are you keeping them? Are you keeping the law?

D. This man confirms He himself is "good" (vs. 20)

To which this rich man tells Jesus, "teacher..." (notice He dropped the good when he addressed Jesus again)...this man says teacher...I am good!

I have kept the law!

I've done all the right things...since my youth!

I AM GOOD!

However, Jesus said in the sermon on The Mount in **Matthew 5**, anyone who has ever been angry is liable to judgment for murder... whoever has looked with lust...has committed adultery in their hearts...

In other words, Jesus has said, that **NONE OF US are** perfectly good! And Jesus had just told him that only God is perfectly good!

E. Jesus looks at him lovingly and tells Him...you lack something...you'r not helplessly dependent upon me (vs. 21)

So after hearing this mans answer, in **vs. 21**, Jesus looks at this wealthy man with love and tells Him the truth.

Jesus says, **YOU lack ONE thing**:

"Sell everything, give it to the poor, and come and follow me".

Now, that seems harsh...

But, Jesus, God in the flesh, was looking upon Him with love for this man!

And the most loving thing that God could tell him in this moment, is you **must come to me helplessly dependent upon me!**

You've kept all of these commandments, but you've forgotten the first and second commandment....

Do not worship any other God, and do not make any idols!

See Jesus, being fully God, knew that this man, despite making a scene...running, falling down before Him, and calling Him "good"...

Mark 10.13-31 — How We Come To Jesus Matters!

had something else that He was helplessly dependent upon...His wealth!

This man's wealth, prevented Him from coming to Jesus, with the childlike, helpless dependence that Jesus had just said was necessary back in **vs. 15!**

And this was not just for this man!

This is for you and I today as well!

HOW WE COME TO JESUS MATTERS!

How do we receive eternal life?

We come to Jesus with a child-like faith, helplessly dependent upon Him and putting away anything else that we are helplessly dependent upon **ABOVE GOD!**

Whether that be our wealth, our possessions, our popularity, our positions, another person, or our passions!

Exodus 20:4-5 NLT says this:

4 You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea.

5 You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods...

God is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

And either God has completely captivated our hearts, **OR, He has not!**

HOW WE COME TO JESUS MATTERS!

And this man **HAD** come to Jesus **IN THE CORRECT WAY!...**at least externally....

But internally...this man had not come to Jesus completely helplessly dependent upon Him like a child!

How do we know?

Look at this man's response to Jesus in **vs. 22**

Mark 10.13-31 — How We Come To Jesus Matters!

F. This man went away dependent upon the idol he arrived with (vs. 22)

This man's face fell, he turned around, and he walked away...absent of God's grace, but full of money!

This man had chosen his god...and it was not Jesus...it was his money!

Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount in **Matthew 6:24:**

24 No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

This man had chosen His God...and it was His wealth!

Now, often when we hear this text preached...

Preachers either say...

- 1. You need to be poor, so give all your money to the church...***
- 2. Or they say Well, what Jesus really meant here is this....***

But this morning...I want God's Word to resonate in your heart!

HOW WE COME TO JESUS MATTERS!

We either come helplessly dependent upon Him or we don't.

We either drop our nets and follow Him...or we don't.

The money's not the problem....

There were many godly wealthy men in scripture...

The money's not the problem....

HOW WE COME TO JESUS IS THE PROBLEM!

We may have it all together externally...

But internally...are we helplessly dependent upon Him?...In every area?

IF YOUR ANSWER FOR WHERE YOUR HOPE IS:

Jesus + anything else...

Then remember the words of Jesus:

Mark 10.13-31 — How We Come To Jesus Matters!

24 No one can serve two masters...either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and **FILL IN THE BLANK...**

We are either helplessly dependent upon Jesus Christ OR we're not!

Let's keep reading in vs. 23-27

III. Those Who Are Not Helplessly Dependent On God Will Not Enter The Kingdom of Heaven (10.23-27)

23 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!"

24 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!

25 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."

26 And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?"

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

A. Jesus says it is difficult for those who have idols, to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven (vs. 23)

Once again, we see that Jesus goes deeper with His Apostles... Jesus tells them...how difficult it will be for the wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!

B. The Disciples Couldn't Believe What He was saying (vs. 24a)

And you have to understand, in this culture, it was wrongly assumed that those who were wealthy and powerful, were favored and more loved by God than the poor!

That is wrong theology!
In our day and in Jesus' day!

Mark 10.13-31 — How We Come To Jesus Matters!

In fact, Jesus, God in the flesh, tells them that wealth is actually a hindrance to entering the kingdom of God!

This was so much of a shock that the Apostles couldn't comprehend what He was saying! They were amazed at His words!

C. Jesus used a humorous example (vs. 24b-25)

But then Jesus takes it a step further....and uses a humorous example of just how impossible it would be for a person who has something they value more than God to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus says...it will be easier for a camel, humps an all, to be thrust through the eye of a needle...than to enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus uses this outlandish image, of the largest animal they knew at this time, going through the eye of a needle....

as a way of making it clear, that ***IF YOU DON'T*** come to Jesus, humbly dependent upon him, ***then it is impossible for you to enter into the kingdom of God.***

Think about what Jesus is saying here:

- Jesus is saying it's impossible to fit a camel through the eye of a needle...in the same way...it's impossible:

- for ***anyone*** who values something more than God
- It's Impossible for anyone who's holding on to idols and other gods
- for them to also enter into the Kingdom of Heaven

It ***MUST BE*** Jesus plus nothing!
Jesus must be everything TO US!

D. Who Then Can Be Saved? (vs. 26)

And I just love The Apostles in this moment, because they respond like many of us do in our hearts....then what hope is there for any of us?

Who ***CAN*** be saved?....

Because we all have this bent in our hearts to love possessions, popularity, and people....

E. With God, Nothing Is Impossible (vs. 27)

And Jesus says the sweetest words we can hear:

It may be impossible **for you to do this on your own...but with God**...God can change your heart's desires...God can bend your love from yourself and towards Him...God can cause you to not love yourself, more than you love Him!

In fact...there is evidence of this in this entire story!

Let's keep reading to see how God had already done the impossible in changing hearts.

Let's finish our text reading vs. 28-31

IV. The Last Will Be First (10.28-31)

28 Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you."

29 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,

30 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.

31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

A. Peter's Confession (vs. 28)

I just love Peter...because Peter is like many of us...

God in the flesh has just spoken, and before He can process what God has just said, Peter starts blurting stuff out...

And Peter is like...**WELL SEE WE...MYSELF INCLUDED...WE LEFT EVERYTHING AND FOLLOWED YOU?**

See what Peter doesn't even realize that he's confessing here....is that God **HAS DONE THE IMPOSSIBLE!**

- God took successful fishermen...called them...and they dropped their nets and followed Him.
- God took successful tax collectors...who were extremely wealthy... He called them...they left their tax booth...and followed Him!

Mark 10.13-31 — How We Come To Jesus Matters!

SEE God is a God who CAN DO the impossible by changing our heart's desires!

And the evidence of what Jesus had just said, is standing right before Him...His Apostles!

B. Jesus Promise (29-30)

So Jesus gives them this promise...those who drop everything to follow me, will be rewarded!

- In this life, you will be spiritually rich in having the presence of God living within you!
- And for all of eternity, you will be spiritually rich because you will be in the fullness of the presence of God forever!

See, those who reject Christ and His call to follow Him, may have whatever they idolize in this life in their hands now...but for all of eternity, they will be spiritually poor!

Jim Elliot, who was a missionary who died for his faith, said this: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain, what he cannot lose"!

How true is that!

C. The Last Will Be First (vs. 31)

In fact, in vs. 31, Jesus finishes saying something He began back in Chapter 9 vs. 35, when he first began talking about children...

Jesus says...there will be many who may appear to be first now....but for eternity...they will be spiritually poor...they will be last...

But there are those now...who appear like they are last...they've given up everything to follow Jesus....and they will be spiritually rich for ***all of eternity!***

HOW WE COME TO JESUS MATTERS...

We must come to Jesus completely helplessly dependent upon Him! AND HIM ALONE!

Mark 10.13-31 — How We Come To Jesus Matters!

Transition

That's what God's Word says and means this morning.
Now, I want to take a few moments to see how we might apply this text to our lives.

Applications

1. We *MUST BE* About Producing The Next Generation To Glorify God

In the text we looked at today, we saw that while in their culture, the next generation was not valued, to Jesus, the next generation was incredibly important.

SO the next generation MUST BE important to us as well!

And this involves ***ALL OF US!***

Do you know that God gives each of us, with our unique gifts, as His good gifts to His Church?

Like we're not just coming to church, but ***we are The Church***, and We have been given to The Church ***TO SERVE the church!***

In other words, the church is not just here in order to bless us, as if we are shoppers at a grocery store filling up our carts....***BUT WHEN CHRIST SAVED US, HE SAVED US TO SERVE!***

We're not meant to be consumers of the church, but we are made to be contributors to the church!

So if we ***MUST BE*** about producing the next generation to glorify God, ***AND*** if we've been given by God as gifts to the local church to serve the church... (Ephesians 4)...

Then this means ***ALL OF US MUST BE*** getting our hands dirty by doing the hard work of producing the next generation to glorify God!

- Maybe in your life, you're a parent with young kids...maybe this looks like signing up with your family to be greeters, and bringing your kids along to serve with you.
- Maybe in your life, this looks like signing up to rock a baby once a month in the nursery, so you can serve mom and dad so they can go to small groups and be discipled in that room, and go to worship

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and know that their child is being taken care of by someone who is serving them.

- Maybe this looks like you signing up to help in kids ministry...or helping with our safety team...so that the next generation is kept safe.
- Maybe this looks like some of those who are in high school or college, signing up to serve on the worship team or the tech team, to help serve the church and be a part of pouring into the next generation in this way.

BUT FOR ALL OF US...it looks like finding someone who is younger than you in your faith, and pouring into them...

Inviting them into your life to teach them what God taught you about Himself through the phase of life that they are in now, and helping them grow to be more like Jesus today than they were yesterday.

EACH OF US...should have someone older than us in our faith pouring into us...**AND...**we should have someone younger in the faith that we are pouring into...

SO THAT...WE CAN BE ABOUT PRODUCING THE NEXT GENERATION TO GLORIFY GOD!

The next generation was incredibly important to Jesus,
SO the next generation MUST BE important to us as well!

2. What Idols Are You Clinging To?

We saw in our text today, that this rich young man...came running to Jesus, knelt before Him, and asked Him what He must do to follow Him forever...

BUT when Jesus told Him what was required...to cast down what was most important to Him...that rich young man...walked away with his head hanging low...and his hands tightly gripped around what it was that he valued more than anything else.

Why did Jesus ask Him to give all of His money away?

God didn't ask other wealthy people to do this in the Bible...

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God doesn't ask most of us to do that today...

Why did Jesus ask this rich young man to give it all away?

Because Jesus knew he wouldn't...

Jesus got to the core of what this man truly worshiped and was clinging onto tighter than anything else.

HEY Today, if Jesus asked you to let go of something...

What is the one thing that you would hear Jesus ask you to let go of... and you would ***walk away from Him*** with your head held down low, but clinging on to that one thing?

What's the one thing in your life, you value more than JESUS?

Maybe you don't know...would you ask God right now...God, would you reveal to me anything that I'm holding onto tighter than I'm holding onto You?

Would you remember Jesus' words from ***Matthew 6:24?***

24 No one can serve two masters...either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and FILL IN THE BLANK...

We are either helplessly dependent upon Jesus Christ OR...

WE'RE NOT!

HEY TODAY:

WHAT are you holding onto and just hoping Jesus doesn't ask you to let go of it...

Can I Just URGE YOU:

Don't end up like this rich man, walking away from eternal life...for something that is only temporary...would you cast down your idols and say, Jesus here I am, whatever the cost, I will follow you!

3. How We Come To Jesus Matters...How Are You Coming To Him?

Throughout this text today, we saw ***how we come to Jesus matters.***

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We come to Him like a child, who is helplessly dependent upon Him... with child-like faith... **OR** we can come to Him just like another item that we want to add to our other riches, but He's not the most important thing to us.

In other words, either all your value is in Christ...or none of it is.

Can I just remind you of our hopeless and helpless state that we find ourselves in?

God created all things, and when God created everything, it was good, because He is GOOD!

Man is Sinful. But yet, we have **all** sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

This creates a problem, because our sin separates us from God in this life and in the next. So we find ourselves in a helpless state of being eternally separated from a Good God who Created Us and Loves Us...this is bad news!

And we seek all of these things to try to satisfy us...but they're just substitutes for our heart's true desire, which is to be back with God!

Jesus is the answer, BUT GOD loved us so much... that God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, **TO RESCUE US!**

- Jesus came to Earth as a baby, being fully God and fully man.
- Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life here on Earth,
- Jesus did not deserve death, but yet because of HIS SELFLESS LOVE...God in the Flesh went to the cross and suffered and died for our sins
- And three days later, He defeated sin and death when He rose from the grave.

So TODAY, we can go from being hopeless to having HOPE in the selfless love of Jesus Christ by receiving what we don't deserve and what our hearts crave...**forgiveness and restoration.**

Today, you and I don't have to remain separated from God, we don't have to remain in our sin, **we can all** be forgiven with a grace that is greater than all our sins!

How?

- If we turn from our sins
- believe that Jesus is The Son of God
- And we follow Him!
- Then we get what it is that we don't deserve: forgiveness and eternal life.

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So today, HOW ARE YOU COMING TO JESUS?

- Are you coming as one who is hopeless and helplessly dependent upon Him?
- OR are you coming as one who is just looking to add another notch on your resume...as one who is “Christian” and “goes to church”...

HEY Either JESUS IS EVERYTHING TO YOU, and you are willing to drop everything to follow Him...

OR...either you're trying to stick a camel through the eye of a needle...

How we come to Jesus matters!

How are YOU coming to Him today?

HEY Would you hear me say this:

Jesus desires that you come to Him!

Whether it's for the first time, and you're dropping your idols to taste and see His goodness...

OR if you've fallen away from following Him and you're returning to Him...

Jesus desires that you come to Him today!

Our Big Idea for Today, is this:

How We Come To Jesus Matters.

We Must Come To Jesus Completely, Helplessly, Dependent Upon Him!

Every Head Bowed Every Eye Closed

Hey Believers:

- We Must be about producing the next generation to glorify God... whoever wants the next generation the most will get them...would you be about serving the church and producing the next generation to glorify God
- What idols are you holding onto...would you ask God to reveal to you what it is you're not willing to let go of...and would you drop it and run to Him?

Unbeliever:

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Maybe you're here today, and you've just now begun to understand the grace of Jesus Christ.

Today, won't you cry out to Him, to save you?

Would you drop your nets, drop your idols, and follow Jesus!

Come see me or any of our church members, in this moment, after the service, or throughout the week.

And we would love to help you cry out for God's all-sufficient grace and salvation!

Church I Love You.

Let's Pray.

Tarleton Students Welcome

Tarleton Students:

We're so grateful you are here today!

We desire to come alongside you, while you're in Stephenville for college, and to help you grow in your faith in becoming more like Jesus tomorrow than you are today.

The main way we will do this is through Preaching God's Word alone faithfully both on Sunday Mornings and on Tuesday evenings.

Church Members: Grab a college kid around you and take them with you to go eat...not just this Sunday...but most Sundays... let's keep them fed not only on God's Word but also with good food!

Speaking of that, we want to bless you on your way out, so make sure you tell the kids handing out cards on the way out that you're a college student and we have a small gift for you to get you some good coffee and tea this week!

Let me pray over you:

- God, we pray for these college students as they're away from home...
- God, I pray that they would grow in their faith in you, and knowing that You are the way the truth and the life.
- God, I pray that you would guard them from things that Satan intends to harm them, but rather you would give them friendships, and interactions with other believers who will in return build them up!
- God bless them and use them for your glory!
- Use them as a light on campus that they may shine brightly for you!

Amen!