

The Road to True Riches

Mark 10:13-31

Pray

13 Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." ¹⁶ And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.

It was very common for parents to bring their little children to a rabbi in that day

- that the rabbi might pray for them, give them a blessing, pray for their future,
 - In fact, the Jewish Talmud encourages parents to do that.

So here they bring their children to Jesus—

I love that and would encourage every parents to do the same.

- Get your kids to Jesus as young as you can.
 - even today in our church we do dedicate children to the Lord

Our kids will thrive, if we teach them about Jesus before their five.

- As impressionable as they are, as open as they are, as much as they'll receive—
 - get your children to Jesus early that he might bless them.

We are partners with God in making disciples of our children.

- were God's partner to train our child in the ways of God.

on this occasion as all of these moms were bringing the children to the Lord

- the disciples suddenly tried to run crowd control and tried to stop them
 - in fact it says here that they rebuke these moms strongly
- but notice this it says that when Jesus saw it he was greatly displeased
 - here was an opportunity for Ministry to these families
 - and these disciples are rebuking these parents
 - from allowing Jesus to minister to their children

he said to his disciples don't forbid them from coming to me

I think what we really have to take to heart in this is the very sobering words

- that Jesus gives us in verse 15.

whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.

- that's a pretty bold statement. That should make us all sit up and take attention.

Jesus says, "**If you don't do this, you are not entering the kingdom of God.**"

- what does he mean?

There are characteristics of children that is absolutely essential for us to understand

- and to grab hold of if we will enter the kingdom of heaven.
 - It's that **children are receivers**. They're in a place of absolute dependence.

- children don't worry about paying bills.
- their totally depend upon their parents.

When a child first comes into the world, that's all they can do is depend on mom & dad

- a child is by nature a receiver, and
 - they have a faith they have a trust they believe what you say
- children are also very forgiving , they're very loving
- and Jesus is saying there's certain characteristics that are found in children
 - that need to be found in the children of God
 - there's a faith and trust & love & forgiveness

my children are never worried about whether they are going to have food to eat

- because we provide it for them
- they just believe the fact that we were going to take care of them
- and the Lord desires us to be that way too
 - that we wouldn't be fearful and wondering is he going to come through
 - **he's going to come through you're a child of God**
 - **and he's going to take care of you**

in Matthew 6 Jesus said do not worry = he will take care of you! Seek 1st Jesus

¹⁷ Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"

This passage is called "the story of the rich young ruler."

- three out of the 4 gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke— tell this story
- However, he was only Wealthy materially but not spiritually, not eternally.
- . because he walked away from Jesus

his question is "What must I do"—"to inherit the eternal life?"

this is the most important question that needs to be answered today

- what do I need to do in order that I might have eternal life
 - well the truth is there's nothing you could do = Jesus did it all
- our part is to believe in what Jesus has done that's how we know that we have eternal life

He was wondering if there was some kind of good work that he could do

- in order to be saved and Jesus is going to make it clear
 - that this man needed to believe and he needed to let go
 - of the things that were holding him back
 - in order to experience that Abundant Life
 - that was only found in Jesus

I hope today that there's nothing holding you back from experiencing the Abundant Life

- that's found in Christ

this is a story of a young wealthy man who had everything

- but there was something lacking in his life and he came running to Jesus

- something was missing that money did not answer

all of the things that he had in the world could not fill something in his heart

he came to the right person he came to Jesus the one person in the whole universe

- that could answer his questions and save his soul and forgive his sin

- and give him eternal life he came to him

so he was headed in the right direction and I love how it says he ran

Proverbs 18:10 says **The name of the Lord is a strong tower;**
The righteous run to it and are safe.

Isaiah 55:6 **Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.**

- the Bible says came with urgency

Ecclesiastes 12:1 **Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth,**

- not too many people come to Christ after their 40s or 50s
 - it's usually young people that come to Christ
- Joseph was a young man when he was made prime minister of Egypt
- David was a young man when he took on Goliath
- Daniel was a young man when he was made prime minister of Babylon

Matthew 11:28 **Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

Jesus has some other sobering statements in **John 5:20**

- he said **you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.**

Jesus can give you life = He can change the direction of your life

- He can help you solve those problems we face
 - He can meet your needs but you have to surrender & make him your lord

he came in the right attitude as he fell down before Christ he knelt before Christ

- Jesus is the king of kings and Lord of lords
 - he came in the right attitude of humility

what people want most is eternal life

- and you can only find it in Christ

There is a guy right now Bryan Johnson who is trying to live forever

Jesus is going to get to the heart of the issue

- to the very thing keeping this man from a true commitment to God.

¹⁸ So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.

¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' "

²⁰ And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth."

²¹ Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

Jesus looked straight into his heart and saw that his great problem was trusting in riches

- he refused to put Christ first in his life
 - this young man put Christ second and his possessions first

I love that phrase = Jesus looking at him loved him.

- He loved the man because he was so lost. he thought he had it all.
 - But He didn't have fulfillment in this life
 - and he didn't have confidence in eternal life.
- I hope you can grasp that truth today that when the Lord looks at you he loves you he really does love you and he knows the condition that you're in today
- but he loves you enough not to leave us the way that we are
 - he calls us to change and he also gives us the power and the ability to change

This man was at where a lot of people are at. He had a lot of possessions.

- He had climbed the ladder of success, but then he looked around
 - and he found out that ladder was leaning against the wrong building.
- And so he had achieved something great, but it wasn't what he really needed.

• Jesus said there's one thing you're missing
and Jesus puts his finger on the problem in this man's life

- and that was his possessions = his possessions possessed him
 - and were holding him back
- it's not wrong to have things God blesses us but it's wrong when those things have you
- when all that you live for is the temporal not the eternal

our possessions can become a real hindrance in fact it can choke out

- the work that God wants to do

any good thing that becomes a god thing is a bad thing

Now, please, don't misunderstand what he's saying. He's not giving people a call to poverty

- that if you give everything and become very poor
 - that you'll earn your way to heaven;

He's simply exposing the true heart of this guy

I never like going to a dentist especially when he takes the little sharp probe

- and he starts probing around: "Does this hurt? Is that tender?"

Jesus puts the probe on his riches & exposes his heart,

- to show him that he was owned by another God.

He said, "I've kept all those commandments."

- but Jesus said there's one commandment, you haven't kept,

○ and that's the first commandment
which says, 'I am the Lord your God and you will have no other gods besides me.'

I can prove that you are serving another God. Go sell what you have, give it to the poor,

- and then follow me." "

Jesus was saying what is more important? Your possessions or following me.

- This young man did not really want Jesus as savior and Lord
 - because he was not willing to give up his sin & have his life ruled by Jesus.

And one of the saddest verses in all of Scripture is vs. 22.

²² But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Riches had a grip on his life

- if there's anything today that has a grip on your heart
 - that is holding you back from following Jesus it's not worth it

I want to encourage you don't make the mistake that this Rich Young Ruler made

- don't let anything hold you back from following Jesus

this young man come and asked Jesus for direction for Life what he needed to do

- and Jesus told him what to do and unfortunately this man walked away
 - he didn't follow after Jesus he didn't adhere to what he had said
- When you get right down to it, this man was more interested in earthly treasures
 - than in the heavenly treasure that he could have
- it's not a sin to be wealthy
 - the bible is filled with people of wealth that God blessed
 - Abraham Boaz David and job
- Joseph of ARamathea was a man of great wealth
 - and he made his tomb available to Jesus

1 Timothy 6:10 the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil and those who have pursued after it pierced themselves through with many Sorrows

2 Corinthians 9:7 Let each one of you give as he purposes in his heart not grudgingly or out of necessity for God loves a cheerful giver

I think you can tell a lot about a person's real spirituality or lack of it

- by taking a tour of their checkbook it will reveal their value system

the Bible says **where your treasure is there will your heart be also**

²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴ And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is [u]for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!

Jesus said it's very difficult for a person who has riches to enter into the kingdom of God

- Jesus said the problem is you end up trusting in your riches
 - Rather than trusting in God

and so what happens is the riches or the possessions that one has

- end up choking out the work that God would do
 - and money answers all your problems
 - you don't really have to depend on the Lord

you think I've got money and that solves all the problems that I have

- but the truth is it doesn't solve all the problems that you have
 - in fact it has the potential to become a God in your life

one example of this in the Old Testament is the wealthiest man that ever lived

- you remember his name was Solomon this guy had amassed more gold more silver
 - more wealth than any person that has ever lived
 - and you know what he said concerning all of his riches
 - it was all vanity

because he was gonna have to leave all of these riches to somebody else

- eventually he was gonna have to leave it behind you can't take it with you
 - and for Solomon he was always trying to amass more and gain more
 - but it never really satisfied him

we need to understand riches and wealth is such a potential snare for us.

- Remember what Paul said to Timothy in **1 Timothy 6:9**. He said, "**Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction.**"

riches can be a snare because they tend to make us satisfied with this life

- instead of longing for the age to come.

how I spend my money reveals to God and everyone what I love most

- whatever you love most is what you're going to give your most time to
 - and you're going to give your most money to

if you really want to know what you love most look at your calendar

- and look at your credit card statements
 - because the way you spend your time and your money
 - tells what you love the most

in Matthew 6 Jesus says **don't store up treasure here on Earth**

- in other words don't pile it up don't hoard it
 - **instead store up treasure in heaven**

money is a tool to be used for God's purposes

- **the best use of money is to use it to get people into heaven**

that's storing up treasure in heaven

- our life on Earth is not all that there is
 - what we do in life echoes in eternity

Jesus gives another illustration to point out how difficult it is in verse 25

²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."²⁶ And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, "Who then can be saved?"

this statement was a Jewish expression for the impossible.

²⁷ But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

if you don't have that underline in your Bible you should underline it

are you facing any impossible situations anything that is beyond you? you can't do it

- well it's not beyond the Lord
 - that prodigal son that's out there running from the lord
 - it's not impossible for the Lord to reach him
- that couple that you know whose marriage is falling apart
 - and they're just struggling it's not impossible for God to put it back together
- that sickness it's not impossible for God to heal

don't project onto God our limitations because there's nothing impossible for God

- and I have to remind myself of that all the time that God is all powerful
 - he can do whatever he desires to do
 - and though things are impossible with me
 - there's nothing that God can't do

so what do you need the Lord to do today

- what impossibility stands in front of you

here's what I want to encourage you to do just turn to the Lord

- say God I can't do this without you please help me Lord
 - I believe that nothing is impossible for you

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

²⁹ So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother [a] or wife or children or [d] lands, for My sake and the gospel's, ³⁰ who shall 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."

Now here's Peter saying, "Lord, we did what this man was not willing to do.

- We left all to follow you. How will we be rewarded?"

we've left everything behind we left our business behind we left our families behind

- we're following after you & he wants to know what's the future looks like

it's worth it = God will bless you in so many different ways

- you can never outgive God anything that I've ever done um for the sake of the Lord
 - he has blessed me far and above and beyond what I could have imagined
 - in ways that I I didn't even think were possible
- and especially it's worth it when we get to Eternity there's nobody in eternity thinking
- man I wish I would have done less for the kingdom of God
 - that would have been so great if I just done less for the Lord
- may God give us the proper perspective to live in light of Eternity

Jesus looks at Peter and he says, "Peter, I know you've given up a lot for me.

- Those fishing nets were really nice. that boat, was topnotch
- You guys will be rewarded. You'll be blessed. You'll receive an abundant return."
- Matter of fact, a hundredfold.
- You can never outgive God.

- **God's not going to be in debt to anybody.**

If you have to give up things for the sake of the gospel, God will reward you.

- **God guarantees that he'll give you a hundredfold back.**
 - **And so it's the best investment you can make.**
- And this is how you should invest your time, treasure and talent.

Jesus tells them that they will be rewarded in this life and given eternal life in the next,

- "This is true in Shawna and My life. Since we've been following the Lord,
 - he has blessed our lives like verse 30 says a hundred fold.
- He has blessed our lives abundantly.

He says also with persecution. And I've had my share of persecution.

- but the things that God has poured into our lives has been priceless.

For the rich young ruler, he wanted eternal life, but he left without it

- because He was not willing to give up his possessions.
 - They was a barrier between him and Jesus Christ. He left sorrowful.
- Let me ask you this. Will you leave here the same way?
- Because you're not willing to give up that bad habit.
 - You wanted Jesus to be an additive on your life instead of the Lord of your life.
- in following Jesus, you may have to give up something. Are you willing to do it?
- im going to give you an opportunity to do that
 - because we don't want you to walk away sorrowful like this man did.
 - But the amazing thing is the choice is yours.

this Rich Young Ruler had sincere intentions

- but he had some strongholds in his life that kept him from following Jesus
 - and there's no stronghold worth holding on to
 - that keeps you from following Jesus

Do you have any barriers in your life keeping you from a true commitment to Jesus Christ?

Pray & share gospel