



mark

THE GOSPEL IN ACTION

Intro: Climbing the Ladder

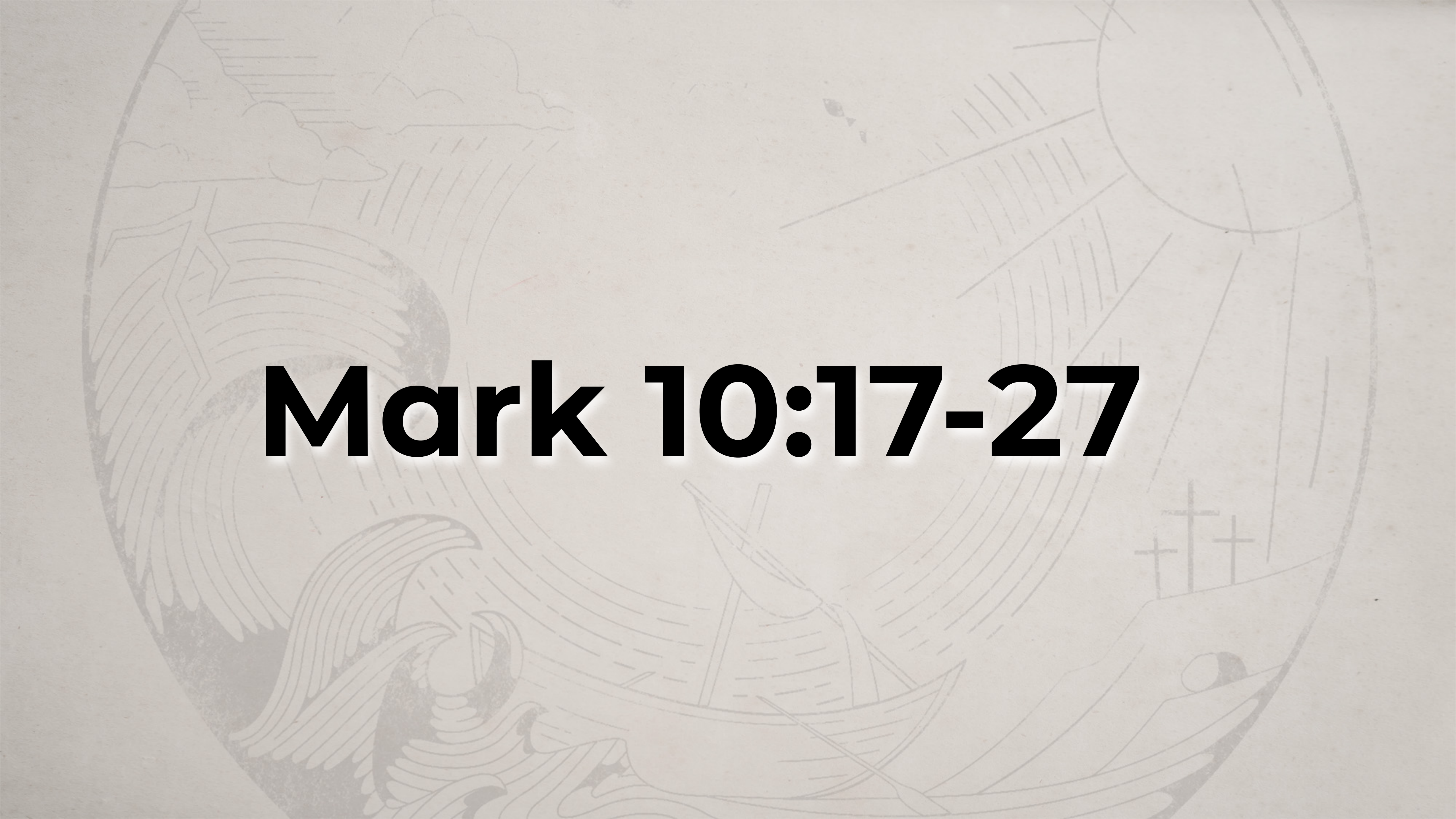


"That arrow always goes to the bottom when I walk by."

Intro: Climbing the Ladder

73% of Americans say they believe in Heaven.

53% of those identifying as Christians believe "doing enough good things" is what gets you to Heaven.

A faint, circular background illustration depicting a dramatic scene. In the foreground, a large, dark, swirling wave dominates the lower left. To the right, a small boat with a single mast and cross-arms is shown, partially obscured by the wave. In the upper left, a rainbow arches over a smaller, more distant wave. The sky is filled with stylized clouds and rain, represented by numerous short, parallel lines. The entire scene is rendered in a light, sketchy style, typical of a background for a religious or historical text.

Mark 10:17-27

I. Kicking Over the Ladder (17-27)

What a contrast between the children of verse 16 and the man of verse 17!

I. Kicking Over the Ladder (17-27)

What must I do to inherit eternal life? Like most Americans, the man believes there is a Heaven... but how do I receive it?

I. Kicking Over the Ladder (17-27)

Why do you call me GOOD? The implication is that the man calls Jesus good because of His DEEDS, not His DEITY!

I. Kicking Over the Ladder (17-27)

"All of these I have kept since I was a boy." This man has been good... and Jesus LOVES him. But good isn't the standard... come FOLLOW me!

I. Kicking Over the Ladder (17-27)

"Sell everything you have" isn't the universal standard for following Jesus. But there are always things God calls us to loosen our GRIP on in order to follow Jesus instead.

I. Kicking Over the Ladder (17-27)

Jesus offers Himself as a (better) substitute for the things we are called to leave behind.

I. Kicking Over the Ladder (17-27)

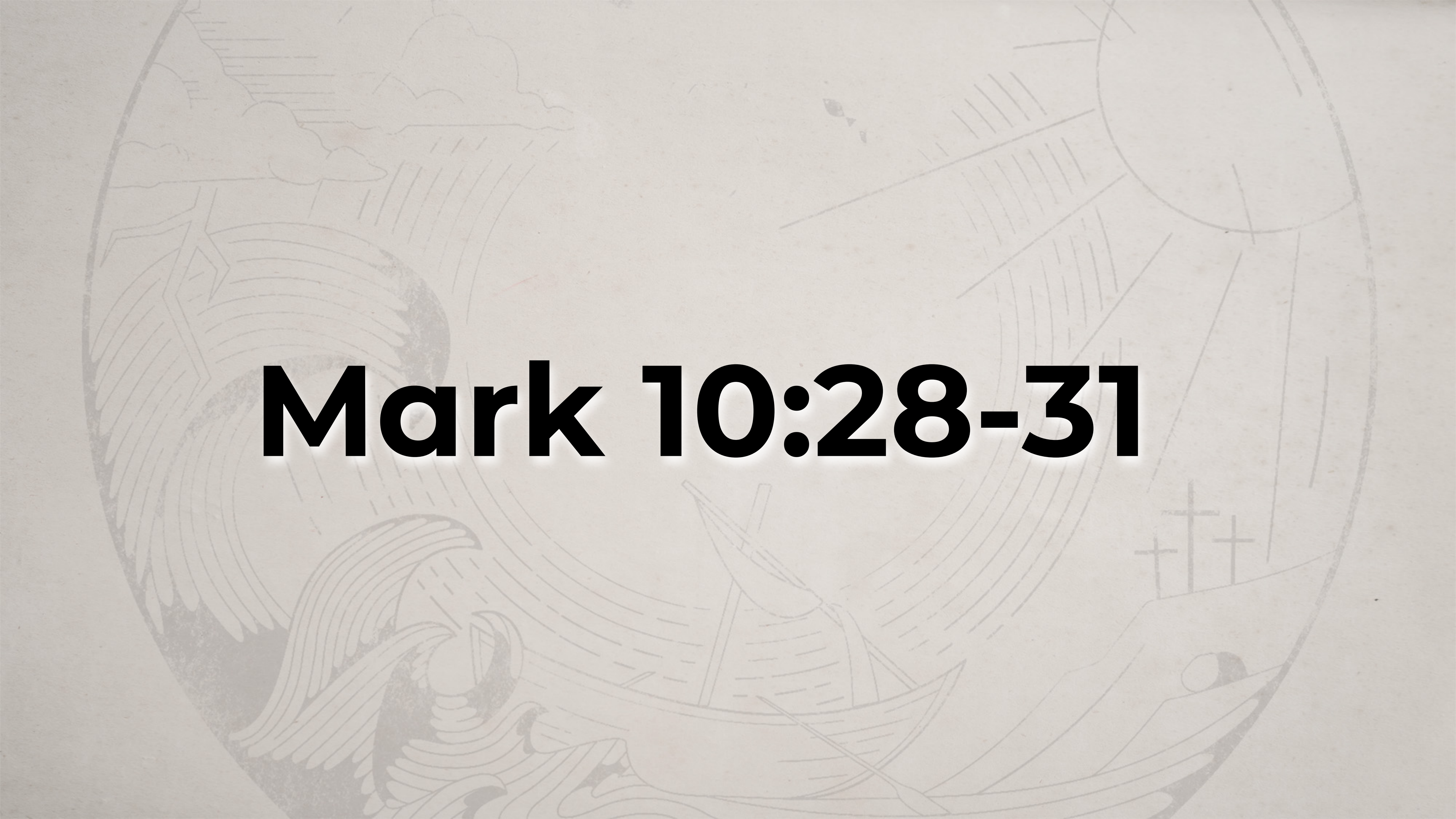
"The eye of the needle."

Jesus is not saying that it's HARD to enter God's Kingdom on our own merit, but POSSIBLE if we try really hard. He's saying it's IMPOSSIBLE.

I. Kicking Over the Ladder (17-27)

For God, all things are possible.

God is making a way for imperfect humans to enter into His Kingdom. This is why Jesus is going to Jerusalem.

A faint, circular background illustration depicting a dramatic scene. In the foreground, a boat is shown navigating through turbulent, swirling waves. Above the boat, a large, multi-colored rainbow arches across the sky. In the upper right corner, a sun or moon is partially visible behind a layer of clouds. The entire scene is rendered in a minimalist, line-art style with a muted color palette.

Mark 10:28-31

II. A New Paradigm (28-31)

"But Jesus, we HAVE left everything to follow you... will WE receive Eternal life?" — Peter

II. A New Paradigm (28-31)

Sacrifice is required to follow Jesus...
but there are BLESSINGS that are
so amazing, we may even forget
there was a sacrifice in the first
place!

II. A New Paradigm (28-31)

"Not one of these will fail to receive a HUNDRED times more than they sacrificed... in the present age."

Is this Prosperity Gospel?

II. A New Paradigm (28-31)

My experience... earthly sacrifices,
but blessed with RELATIONAL
RICHERS beyond anything I could
have imagined.

II. A New Paradigm (28-31)

Let's not miss the fact that **PERSECUTIONS** are one of the items on the list of things we will be given in this life!

II. A New Paradigm (28-31)

The greatest blessing of all is not found in THIS life... it is ETERNAL life in the age to come!

II. A New Paradigm (28-31)

**It ONLY costs
us everything!**

Conclusion: Let Go of the Ladder

None of us is good enough to work our way up the ladder to Heaven. Only by following Jesus can we receive Eternal Life.

Conclusion: Let Go of the Ladder

My LEAST favorite Bible verse...

Matthew 7:21-23

Conclusion: Let Go of the Ladder

Engage with people by not only
TELLING them the truth... but
letting them **SEE** it in your life!



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