

Mark 10:22 *And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.*

1 Chronicles 29:14 *But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.*

“To miss out on the mission that God gives is to spend our entire lives to win the wrong game. Even though God is unseen, His purpose is certain. He is always present with you.” - John Ortberg

“The care of \$200 million is enough to kill anyone. There is no pleasure in it.” - W. H. Vanderbilt

“I am the most miserable man on earth.” - J. J. Astor
First multi-millionaire in the United States

“I have made millions, but they have brought me no happiness.”
- John D. Rockefeller

“Millionaires seldom smile.” - Andrew Carnegie
Enormous expansion of the American steel industry (Gave away 90%)

“I was happier when doing a mechanic’s job.” - Henry Ford

1 Timothy 6:9 *But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.*

- B. There was the powerful interpretation that described his life.

Mark 10:23 *And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!*

“Every moment of my life is a living moment with God.”
- David Jeremiah

Mark 10:27 *And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.*



The Blinding View of Park Place and Boardwalk

Mark 10:17-24

Why is life not about what you have?

- ◆ Because the things we have can become a great source of anxiety. (*Payments, expensive repairs, and inevitable maintenance all compete for our time.*)
- ◆ Because the things we have cannot fulfill our emotional needs. Without someone to share them with they can all become meaningless and pointless.
- ◆ Because the things we have inevitably end up causing a point of conflict between us and someone we love.
- ◆ Because the pursuit of more has a way of robbing us of the things we need the most. (*ie: companionship, contentment, concern*)

I. The introduction of the man who was defined by his possessions. (V.19-20)

- A. He was introduced as a person of substantial means.

Luke 18:23 . . . for he was very rich.

- B. He was introduced as a person of saintly motives.

Mark 10:19 *Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. (V.20) And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.*

“Naively, the man claimed to have kept all of the commandments. But he was self-deceived. Our sinful hearts have a habit of appraising us as better than we are.” - Tony Evans

II. The invitation given to the man who was dominated by his possessions. (V.21)

- A. He was given the opportunity to build some eternal security.

Mark 10:21 *Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven:*

“Just as we all have a mission – a way of contributing to God’s kingdom that we were designed and gifted for – we also have what might be called a shadow mission. My shadow mission is what I will do with my life if I drift on autopilot. It consists of the activities toward which I will gravitate if I allow my natural temptation and selfishness to take over. Everybody has a shadow mission.”

- John Ortberg

- B. He was given the opportunity to believe in the Savior.

Mark 10:21 . . . and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

The Disciples’ response to the same question:

Mark 1:18 *And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.*

III. The indictment against the man who was dominated by his possessions. (V.22-23)

- A. There was personal inhibition that dominated his life.