

Are You Following Jesus?

JOHN PENDRAY



For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1 COR 1:18-25 (ESV)

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?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 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.’” And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” 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.” Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

MARK 10:17-31

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!” 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! 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.” And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.” Peter began to say to him, “See, we have left everything and followed you.” 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, 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. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.” MARK 10:17-31

*“GOD SITS AT THE SUMMIT OF
HUNGER, THIRST, AND SUFFERING;
THE DEVIL SITS AT THE SUMMIT OF
THE COMFORTABLE LIFE. CHOOSE.”*

NIKOS KAZANTZAKIS

As he was setting out on his journey

MARK 10:17A



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“Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”
And Jesus said to him “Why do you call me good? No
one is good except God alone.”**

MARK 10:17B-18



“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.” And he said to him “Teacher, I have kept these since my youth.”

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.”

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

MARK 10:19-22



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MARK 10:23-27



And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

MARK 4:18-19



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MARK 10:28-31



“HOW IS IT THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE QUITE OBVIOUSLY EATEN UP WITH PRIDE CAN SAY THEY BELIEVE IN GOD AND APPEAR TO THEMSELVES VERY RELIGIOUS? I AM AFRAID IT MEANS THEY ARE WORSHIPING AN IMAGINARY GOD. THEY THEORETICALLY ADMIT THEMSELVES TO BE NOTHING IN THE PRESENCE OF THIS PHANTOM GOD, BUT ARE REALLY ALL THE TIME IMAGINING HOW HE APPROVES OF THEM AND THINKS THEM FAR BETTER THAN ORDINARY PEOPLE: THAT IS, THEY PAY A PENNYWORTH OF IMAGINARY HUMILITY TO HIM AND GET OUT OF IT A POUND’S WORTH OF PRIDE TOWARDS THEIR FELLOW-MEN...

C.S. LEWIS

...I SUPPOSE IT WAS OF THOSE PEOPLE CHRIST WAS THINKING WHEN HE SAID THAT SOME WOULD PREACH ABOUT HIM AND CAST OUT DEVILS IN HIS NAME, ONLY TO BE TOLD AT THE END OF THE WORLD THAT HE HAD NEVER KNOWN THEM. AND ANY OF US MAY AT ANY MOMENT BE IN THIS DEATH-TRAP. LUCKILY, WE HAVE A TEST. WHENEVER WE FIND THAT OUR RELIGIOUS LIFE IS MAKING US FEEL THAT WE ARE GOOD—ABOVE ALL, THAT WE ARE BETTER THAN SOMEONE ELSE—I THINK WE MAY BE SURE THAT WE ARE BEING ACTED ON, NOT BY GOD, BUT BY THE DEVIL. THE REAL TEST OF BEING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD IS, THAT YOU EITHER FORGET ABOUT YOURSELF ALTOGETHER OR SEE YOURSELF AS A SMALL, DIRTY OBJECT. IT IS BETTER TO FORGET ABOUT YOURSELF ALTOGETHER.”

C.S. LEWIS

Am I following Jesus?

Is Jesus Lord over my finances?

Am I embracing the family of God?