

MARK

- THE STORY OF JESUS -

PART 31 - SUCCESSFULLY RICH

Mark 10:13~16

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. 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. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Mark 10:17~22

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, Honour 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 10:23~31

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."

- Don't miss the man
- Don't miss life
- Don't miss Jesus

1. Don't Miss the Man

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, Honour your father and mother.' " And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." Mark 10:17–20

What are You Missing?

Tillich on Acceptance

One of the most well-known and deeply appreciated writings of Tillich is his sermon, "You Are Accepted."² In this famous sermon, Tillich tells us that while there are no substitutes for words like "sin" and "grace," there *are* ways of rediscovering their meaning. This rediscovery will lead us down into the depths of human existence.³ The word "sin" can be supplemented by the word "separation," which Tillich argues is a universal human experience. We are separated from ourselves, from each other, and from the ground of our lives. "This threefold separation constitutes the state of everything that exists; it is a universal fact; it is the fate of every life."⁴ All of us know, in our depths, that we are separated from something to which we essentially belong. Our longing for reunion suggests to us that we *should* be united, and our guilt tells us that we are in part responsible for this separation. We actively participate in and perpetuate our condition. Thus, for Tillich, separation always means *both fate and choice*. While this combination seems most contradictory, it is the state of our existence from its beginning to its end.

Such separation is prepared in the mother's womb, and before that time, in every preceding generation. It is manifest in the special actions of our conscious life. It reaches beyond our graves into all the succeeding generations. It is our existence itself. *Existence is separation!*⁵

Measures of Success with God

- Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. Job 1:10
- Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. Psalm 128:12
- Tell the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds. Isaiah 3:10

2. Don't Miss Life

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 10:21–22

Mark 10:23~27

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.” Mark 10:23–27

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187,
185,
198

All figures are in current [Geary–Khamis dollars](#), more commonly known as **international dollars (Int\$)**.

International Monetary Fund (2014)
(based on estimates of projected data)^[3]

Rank ↕	Country ↕	Int\$ ↕
1	 Qatar	143,427
2	 Luxembourg	92,049
3	 Singapore	82,762
4	 Brunei	73,233
5	 Kuwait	71,020
6	 Norway	66,937
7	 United Arab Emirates	64,479
8	 San Marino	60,664
9	 Switzerland	58,087
—	 Hong Kong	54,722
10	 United States	54,597
11	 Saudi Arabia	52,183
12	 Bahrain	51,714
13	 Ireland	49,195
14	 Netherlands	47,355
15	 Australia	46,433
16	 Austria	46,420
17	 Sweden	45,986
18	 Germany	45,888
19	 Taiwan	45,854
20	 Canada	44,843
21	 Denmark	44,343
22	 Iceland	43,637
23	 Belgium	42,973

World Bank (2011–2014)
(based on actual data)^[4]

Rank ↕	Country ↕	Int\$ ↕	Year ↕
—	 Macau	140,358	2014
1	 Qatar	140,000	2014
2	 Luxembourg	91,048	2013
3	 Kuwait	83,840	2012
4	 Singapore	78,763	2013
5	 Brunei	71,777	2013
6	 Norway	64,406	2013
7	 United Arab Emirates	59,845	2012
8	 Switzerland	56,950	2013
9	 Saudi Arabia	53,644	2013
—	 Hong Kong	53,216	2013
—	 Bermuda	53,056	2012
10	 United States	53,042	2013
11	 Netherlands	46,162	2013
12	 Ireland	45,684	2013
13	 Austria	45,079	2013
14	 Oman	45,334	2012
15	 Sweden	44,658	2013
16	 Germany	43,884	2013
17	 Bahrain	43,851	2013
18	 Denmark	43,782	2013
19	 Australia	43,202	2013
20	 Canada	42,753	2013
21	 Iceland	41,859	2013

Central Intelligence Agency (1993–2014)
(based on estimates and, sometimes, IMF data)^[5]

Rank ↕	Country ↕	Int\$ ↕	Year ↕
1	 Qatar	102,100	2013 est.
2	 Luxembourg	92,400	2014 est.
3	 Liechtenstein	89,400	2009 est.
-	 Macau	88,700	2013 est.
-	 Bermuda	86,000	2011 est.
-	 Isle of Man	83,100	2007 est.
4	 Singapore	81,300	2014 est.
5	 Monaco	78,700	2013 est.
6	 Brunei	77,700	2014 est.
7	 Kuwait	71,000	2014 est.
-	 Sint Maarten	66,800	2014 est.
8	 Norway	65,900	2014 est.
9	 United Arab Emirates	65,000	2014 est.
-	 Jersey	57,000	2005 est.
-	 Falkland Islands	55,400	2002 est.
10	 Switzerland	55,200	2014 est.
-	 Hong Kong	55,200	2014 est.
11	 San Marino	55,000	2013 est.
12	 United States	54,800	2014 est.
13	 Saudi Arabia	52,800	2014 est.
14	 Bahrain	51,400	2014 est.
15	 Netherlands	47,400	2014 est.
16	 Ireland	46,800	2014 est.
17	 Australia	46,600	2014 est.

The Danger of Riches

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. 1 Timothy 6:9–10

Randy Alcorn

Tolstoy said, 'The antagonism between life and conscience may be removed either by a change of life or by a change of conscience.' Many of us have elected to adjust our consciences rather than our lives. Our powers of rationalization are unlimited. They allow us to live in luxury and indifference while others, whom we could help if we chose to, starve and go to hell.

The Barb of Riches

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. 1 Timothy 6:17–19

3. Don't Miss Jesus

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9