

## No Turning Back

Mark 10:17-30 NIV

- I. Religious but self-sufficient.
  - a. “Good teacher.” He is drawn to Jesus, He honors Him as a teacher with insight, but no idea he is speaking to the One who made him. He genuinely wants to improve himself – he’s already good, but how can I be better and gain assurance of eternal life.
  - b. Jesus confronts the idol of his wealth. It’s so deep that something radical is asked of him which we don’t have asked of anyone else. The apostles “left everything” to follow but were never commanded to.
    - i. When God asks of you what He doesn’t seem to be asking of others, it is to free you, not impoverish you.
    - ii. The first commandment: “You shall have no other gods before Me.” God says that His Name is jealous and He is a jealous God.
  - c. No one is worthy to be saved – with man it is impossible, like putting a camel through the eye of a needle. It doesn’t matter how sincere, how nice, how helpful, or how religious – it is impossible to earn heaven by human behavior.
  - d. The first step to being saved is to stop assuming you’re good in God’s eyes even if you mean well. The law of God silences all human boasting – if you break one part of the law, you’ve broken the whole thing in God’s eyes.
- II. The test of money.
  - a. Matthew 6:24 NIV “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” Your God is what motivates and comforts you, not what you declare with your lips.
  - b. 100 times in this life – God doesn’t need him to be poor; He wants him to be free. \*I know people God has trusted to steward wealth – it’s a unique burden. Psalm 62:10b NIV “...though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them.”
  - c. Luke 16:10-12 ESV “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. <sup>11</sup>If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?” \*All wealth belongs to God – all the land and all the houses and all of the gold – we can only be stewards of what belongs to someone else. But any truth we receive about God or about humanity we get to own for all eternity.
  - d. Tithing. Malachi 3:10 NIV “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty,

“and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

- i. Under law you paid your tithe and if you didn't your finances were cursed.
- ii. In the New Covenant, Jesus took the curse of sin so we don't need to fear, but to participate in God's economy we give our tithes in recognition that all of it belongs to Him.
- iii. Luke 14:33 NIV “In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.”

### III. Don't turn back.

- a. Why doesn't Jesus chase after him? 2Timothy 2:12-13 ESV “if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.” He doesn't enable or coddle us – He will faithfully discipline us if we are faithless because it's who He is. \*Slow down dream – you decide.
- b. John 6:66-68 ESV “After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,”
- c. The two mornings I worked on this were two parts to my devotional called the tale of two cities: Hebrews 11:15-16 ESV “If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.” \*Read the tale of two cities

Salvation; the other rich young ruler – Phil. 3:13-14 ESV “...one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”