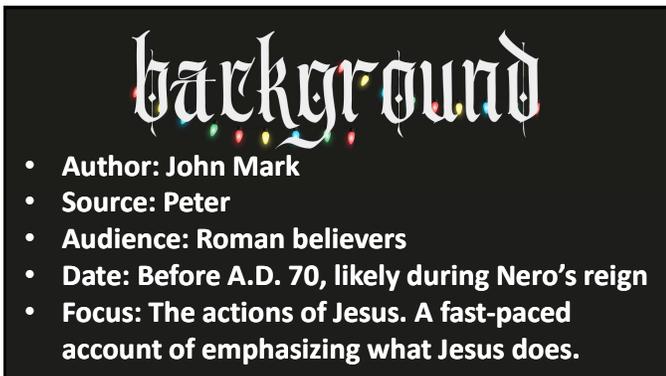




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3

background

Key Themes:

- Jesus is authority
- Jesus is servant
- Jesus is the suffering Messiah
- There is a cost to following Jesus

4

truths

- Loyalty to Christ > loyalty to a group
- We must refuse to live in such a way that normalizes sin or weakness another's faith
- God's truth is not negotiable

5

MEMORY VERSE

MARK 12:29-31

Jesus answered, "The most important is listen, Israel! The Lord our God, The lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second dis, love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other command greater than these."

6

REVIEW VERSE

MARK 7:15

Nothing that goes into a person from outside can defile him but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.

7

Mark 10:13-31

13 People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 When Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will

8

Mark 10:13-31

never enter it." 16 After taking them in his arms, he laid his hands on them and blessed them. 17 As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked him. "No one is good except God alone. 19 You know the commandments:

9

Mark 10:13-31

Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not bear false witness; do not defraud; honor your father and mother.” 20 He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these from my youth.” 21 Looking at him, Jesus loved him and said to him, “You lack one thing: Go, sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

10

Mark 10:13-31

22 But he was dismayed by this demand, and he went away grieving, because he had many possessions. 23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” 24 The disciples were astonished at his words. Again Jesus said to them, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!

11

Mark 10:13-31

25 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.” 26 They were even more astonished, saying to one another, “Then who can be saved?” 27 Looking at them, Jesus said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God, because all things are possible with God.” 28 Peter began to tell him,

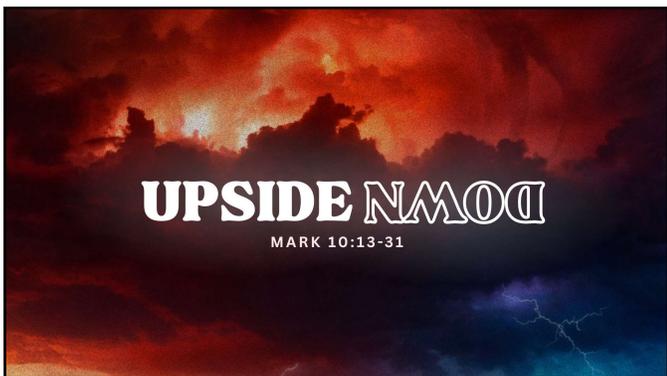
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Mark 10:13-31
“Look, we have left everything and followed you.” 29 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus said, “there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, 30 who will not receive a hundred times more, now at this time —houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions —

13

Mark 10:13-31
and eternal life in the age to come. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

14



15

context

Background (Immediate Context in Mark):

- Chapter 8: A misunderstood Messiah
- Chapter 8: Discipleship redefined
- Chapter 9: Greatness reversed
- Chapter 10: Kingdom expectations clarified

Jesus is reshaping how His followers understand power, value, and the kingdom.

16

I. THE KINGDOM IS A GIFT, NOT AN ACCOMPLISHMENT

Theological Focus: The kingdom of God is graciously given, not morally earned.

Vs. 13–16: Laying the foundation of the kingdom perspective

- “Let the children come” (imperative)
- Children are brought to Jesus (passive)
- Disciples rebuke them (cultural logic)

17

I. THE KINGDOM IS A GIFT, NOT AN ACCOMPLISHMENT

Theological Focus: The kingdom of God is graciously given, not morally earned.

Jesus is indignant (v. 14) — only use of this word in reference to Jesus

- “Receive the kingdom” (welcome, like a gift)

18

I. THE KINGDOM IS A GIFT, NOT AN ACCOMPLISHMENT

δέχομαι (dechomai) – “to receive, welcome, accept”

Mark 10:15 – “Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child...”

- Emphasizes openness and dependence
- Same word used for hospitality and receiving grace

19

I. THE KINGDOM IS A GIFT, NOT AN ACCOMPLISHMENT

Why children?

Children display:

- Dependence
- Humility
- Trust
- Faith

20

ALISTAIR BIRCH

A CHILD DOES NOT COME TO JESUS WITH A RÉSUMÉ, ONLY WITH EMPTY HANDS.

21

I. THE KINGDOM IS A GIFT, NOT AN ACCOMPLISHMENT

Cultural component – In Greco-Roman culture, children had no social value

- Jesus reorients kingdom values by placing the least at the center
- Jesus redefines what should have value, then He freely offers that which has the most value

22

YOU DON'T QUALIFY FOR THE KINGDOM—YOU WELCOME IT.

23

TONY VOREEM

THE KINGDOM IS NOT A REWARD FOR THE DESERVING; IT IS A GIFT FOR THE DEPENDENT.

24

II. THE KINGDOM EXPOSES OUR IDOLS + FALSE SECURITIES

Theological Focus: The kingdom does not simply invite faith—it confronts rival saviors.

The Rich Man’s Question (v. 17): *“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”*

- Moral
- Sincere
- Respectable
- Wrong Framework

25

II. THE KINGDOM EXPOSES OUR IDOLS + FALSE SECURITIES

Theological Focus: The kingdom does not simply invite faith—it confronts rival saviors.

A fine-tuned challenge (v. 21): *“Jesus, looking at him, loved him...”*

26

II. THE KINGDOM EXPOSES OUR IDOLS + FALSE SECURITIES

ἠγάπησεν (ēgapēsen) – “loved”

- Not sentimental
- Covenantal, costly love
- Love that tells the truth

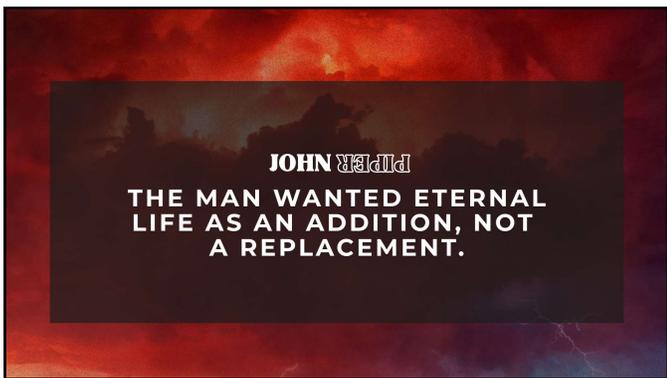
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28



29



30

II. THE KINGDOM EXPOSES OUR IDOLS + FALSE SECURITIES

False Securities:

- Wealth says, "I have enough."
- Health says, "I'm strong."
- Status says, "I matter."
- Morality says, "I'm good."
- Knowledge says, "I understand."

31

II. THE KINGDOM EXPOSES OUR IDOLS + FALSE SECURITIES

False Securities:

- Planning says, "I'm prepared."
- Relationships says, "I'm supported."
- Time / youth says, "I can wait."

32



33

II. THE KINGDOM EXPOSES OUR IDOLS + FALSE SECURITIES

The Reality (vv. 23–27):

“How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!”

34

II. THE KINGDOM EXPOSES OUR IDOLS + FALSE SECURITIES

ἀδύνατον (adynaton) – “impossible” (v. 27)

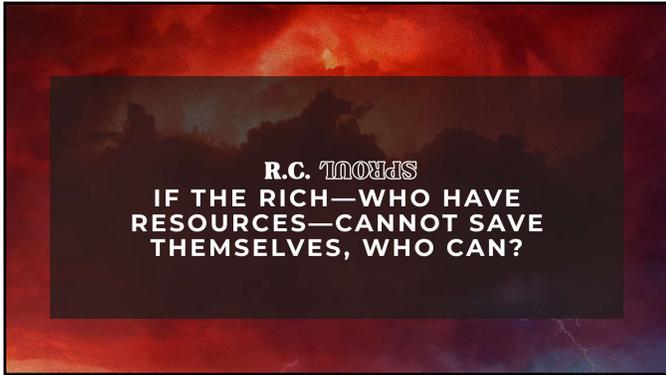
- Absolute inability
- Not difficult—impossible
- Same word used for human inability to save themselves

35

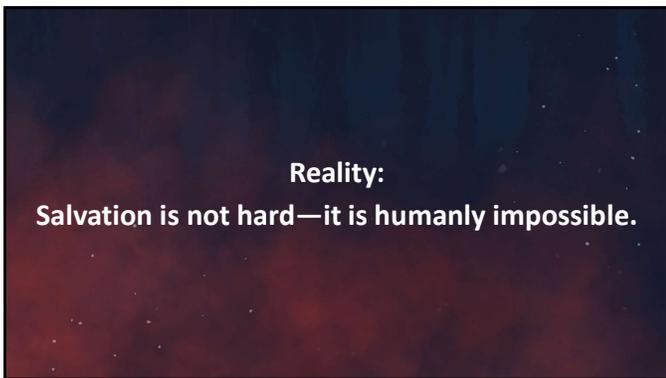
Why context matters...

“With man it is impossible, but not with God.”

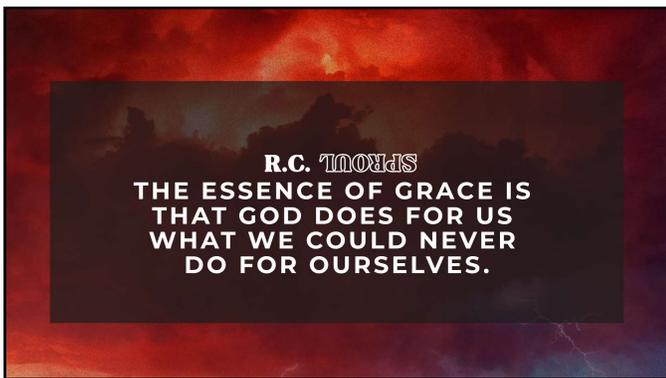
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38



39

III. MAKE IT MAKE SENSE

Peter's Honest Question (Mark 10:28–31)

"We have left everything..."

- Not pride—assurance-seeking.

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III. MAKE IT MAKE SENSE

Jesus' Upside-Down Reality

Present reward:

- Spiritual family
- Purpose
- Community

Future reward:

- Eternal life

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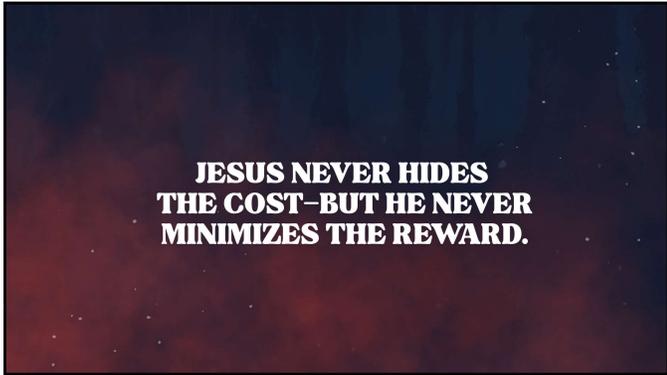
III. MAKE IT MAKE SENSE

Jesus' Upside-Down Reality

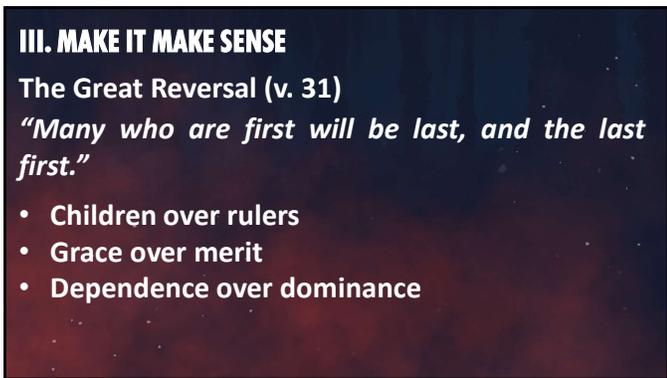
Included Cost:

- Persecution
- Surrender

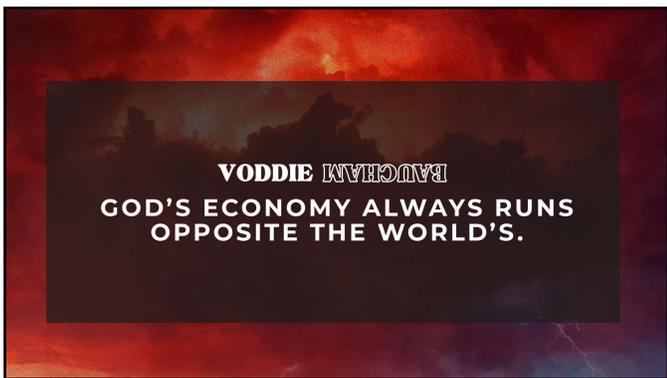
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43



44



45

takeaways

- The greatest threat to faith is not rebellion— it's self-reliance.
- Anything you cannot surrender has become a rival savior.

46

takeaways

*"Grace is not opposed to effort;
it is opposed to earning."
Dallas Willard*

47
