

What am I Missing?
Mark 10:17-31
Small Group Discussion

Intro Question

- When you go on a long trip in the car, do you prefer to be the driver or the passenger? Why? *(Leaders: we are starting to uncover the fact that some of us like to feel in control. But you don't have to reveal that just yet.)*

Read Mark 10:13-16 for an important sense of context.

- In v. 15, what does Jesus say is the key to entering the kingdom of God? What do you think he meant by this?

Read Mark 10:17-20

- What all do we know about the man who approaches Jesus with a question?
- What is implied by the fact that he runs up and kneels before Jesus?
- On Sunday, we heard that this man is under the illusion of being in control. How do his wealth and position perpetuate that illusion?
- How does his approach here convey the illusion that he can control God's acceptance of him? *(Leaders: he believes that being good is how he can merit God's favor, and that there must be something else he can do to put God in his debt).*
- How is this approach at odds with what Jesus said about entering the kingdom of God in v. 15?
- Has there ever been a time in life where you felt out of control of your destiny, where you were completely at the mercy of circumstance?
- How does God use these times to cause us to trust wholeheartedly in him?

Read Mark 10:21-31

- What does this man "lack," according to Jesus?
- What do we see about Jesus' attitude toward the rich man, in v. 21? What does this observation say about Jesus' approach to us, even when we are misguided?
- If the man were to follow Jesus' instruction to him in v. 21, how would he have found the one thing that he lacked? Another way to ask this is, how did the man's wealth stand in the way of his finding what he was ultimately looking for?
- When Jesus addresses the disciples in v. 24, what does he call them? How does this address relate the present scene with his previous teaching from v. 15? What truth starts to emerge when you see the two together?
- What re-assurance does Jesus offer in v. 27?
- On Sunday, Pastor Justin argued that Jesus wasn't asking the man to do more, but to do less—in essence, to give up the illusion of control. By doing so, the man would find the freedom of being accepted into God's kingdom through faith in Jesus, apart from anything that he could achieve. Have you found this kind of freedom?
- Is there anything in your life—even good things—that you use as a way of feeling like you are in control of your destiny, or even of God's response to you? What would Jesus say about that area of your life today? *(Share as you are comfortable).*

Prayer:

- Share about the needs that you currently have, and pray for one another.
- Pray also for the ability to let go of the illusion of control, giving up whatever that may require, in order to trust more fully in Jesus.