



Sermon Notes

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February 16th, 2020

“The Road to Greatness”

Mark 10:17-35

Understanding your Spiritual Journey (Introduction): Your spiritual journey. Do you know where you are in your walk with God or your journey with God? Let's identify where some may be right now in their spiritual journey. Your spiritual journey could be one of three ways:

1. You have heard about Him but confused.
 - a. Seen a cross around someone's neck. May have used His name in a conversation. Things like that but you are still confused. You ask things like:
 - i. *“Why do people go to church?”*
 - ii. *“Can Jesus really make a difference in somebody's life?”*
 - b. Confusion can lead to apathy and indifference; or being curious in who Jesus is and what He can do.
2. Heard about Jesus but rejected Jesus.
 - a. Some people can't wrap their head around the fact He is God and that He can make a difference in someone's life. They reject that He can change someone's life for the better and change the eternity which awaits them.
3. Accepted Jesus in your life but missing the difference making factor.
 - a. There was a time in that person's life where they saw who Jesus is and what

He could do in them. Saw things in their life that had to be dealt with as they would come to faith in Christ.

- b. Become a certified born again believer.
 - i. May show it through a card in their wallet, a sticker/magnet on their car, owning a Bible or praying every now and then.
- c. However, not much of a difference is made.

There are two extremes. One extreme is someone being a card carrying believer; the other is someone being Jesus jr. Then you have everyone else that is somewhere in between.

Jesus didn't save us to live a mediocre life. He wants us to achieve great things in our life.

Let's take a look at an interesting encounter that Jesus had with a rich young ruler in Mark 10.

Verse 17: A man comes running up to Jesus. He's out of breath and has come before Jesus to ask Him a question. When the man asked Jesus "Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?", he probably was wanting a quick fix to his problem. Either an 11th command by Jesus or an easy spiritual plan laid out for Him to follow and just like that, have eternal life.

Verses 18-19: Jesus responds by pointing back to the Old Testament and discussing the Ten Commandments. He tells the boy that if he obeys those commandments perfectly and does right and not wrong according to His word, he could have eternal life.

Verse 20: Let's pretend you heard that scenario. You heard that conversation (as stated in verses 17-19) and then heard his response (verse 20) where he claims he has been perfect all his life. You would be saying "Liar liar, pants on fire." You could give the boy a pass on the fact that he probably has not killed someone or done adultery. But you probably couldn't give him a pass on him stealing something, lying or even disrespecting his parents. Just can't buy that kind of response.

Verse 21: Jesus is looking beyond your sins, your faults and your failures. He is looking deep into your soul and feeling genuine love for you. He wanted him to set aside all he had in value on this side of heaven (sacrifice it) and take up his cross and follow Him. Jesus challenged him with truth. The truth of sacrifice. The thing that boy valued so much in his life could have very well been what was keeping Him from eternal life. How could Jesus have known that? He could have known it because He is God. He knows it all.

Verse 22: The boy didn't seem too thrilled about that. He went away sad. He knew it was going to be difficult to give it away. It was not going to be hard because he owned all of these great possessions. It was going to be hard to give it up because those great possessions owned him. He walked away because he knew he couldn't go that far.

Verse 23-26: The disciples were astonished at Jesus' response. They began to ask how can one be saved? If that boy can't do it, what chance do we have?

Verse 27: Jesus reminds them that you can't get to God on your own terms. But if you come to God on His terms, then everything is possible for you. He wants to be (just as He wanted to be in the rich young ruler) number one in your life. Those are God's terms.

Verse 28: Peter reminds Jesus that he and every other disciple left behind their things and followed Him. Peter is simply asking, "We have sacrificed things for you and have followed you. What do we get out of it?" God can show up in the midst of that question.

Verse 29: Whatever you sacrifice that is keeping you from getting to God, He will reward you now and in eternity. It's about turning from something that you are letting control your



HE IS THE
IMAGE
OF THE
INVISIBLE
GOD

Colossians 1:15

life and turning to Jesus who will bless you a multitude. It is unsure of when the blessings will come but as long as we do the sacrificing, He will do the multiplying.

Verse 31: Many have an appearance of greatness but they have not sacrificed. They have no personal relationship with Jesus. Some know what is keeping them from Jesus and some don't. What is keeping you from Jesus? Is it a wrong relationship? Working to build a reputation? A job to bring you significance? A dream you are chasing? Sacrifice it. Admit your failures to God so He can heal you.



Conclusion: If you want the life that God has promised, you don't have to have a sad face. You can make a choice today to sacrifice the direction you are going and begin to go in God's direction. Begin your spiritual journey with Jesus.