

SERMON NOTES

Preacher: Kevin Hardy

Date: March 9, 2025

Text: Mark 10:17-31

Title: The Priority of Discipleship

Big Idea: Following Jesus is the disciple's highest priority.



I. GOD IS GOD (vv. 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?" (v. 17)

This man is missing the most important thing...a relationship with Jesus!

The priorities are out of order in his life. Jesus loves the man, but will the man love Jesus?

"This man is rich. And he no longer possesses his riches—they possess him. The more we own, the harder it is to sell everything and give to the poor. And the more we own, the harder it is to accept that there is nothing we can offer God to earn our place in his kingdom." – Dave Griffith-Jones

II. MONEY ISN'T GOD (vv. 23-30)

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!" (v. 23)

"Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God." (v. 24)

"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." (v. 25)

Jesus isn't saying this is merely hard or difficult, but impossible!

"Anything that causes disciples to forget their poverty and childlikeness before God and that prevents them from following Jesus Christ—this, too, is a camel before the eye of a needle." – James Edwards

III. JESUS' SLOGAN/SUMMARY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD (v. 31)

"But many who are first will be last, and the last first." (v. 31)

"The best of life on Earth is a glimpse of Heaven; the worst of life is a glimpse of Hell. For Christians, this present life is the closest they will come to Hell. For unbelievers, it is the closest they will come to Heaven." – Randy Alcorn

Nobody is saved by keeping the Law. Nobody is saved by selling everything and giving the money to the poor. We are saved by trusting in Jesus.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

To be used for personal reflection and/or sermon-based small group discussion.

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READ Mark 10:17-31

What does this passage reveal about the young man's view of salvation? How does Jesus challenge his understanding? Why do you think Jesus told the man to sell everything he had and give to the poor? Does this mean all Christians must give up their possessions?

How do wealth and possessions impact our ability to follow Jesus wholeheartedly? What are some “riches” in your life that may compete with your devotion to Christ?

What does Jesus mean when He says, “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?” (v. 25) How does this challenge cultural views of success?

How does Peter's response in verses 28-30 contrast with the rich young man's reaction? What does Jesus' reply teach us about God's reward for those who follow Him?

Jesus says, “With man it is impossible, but not with God.” (v. 27) How does this truth impact the way we think about salvation and our dependence on God? Verse 31 says, “But many who are first will be last, and the last first.” How does this challenge worldly ideas of status, success, and significance?

In what ways can we help each other resist the pull of materialism and self-sufficiency? How can we practice generosity in a way that reflects Jesus' call in this passage?

Is there anything in your life that Jesus might be calling you to surrender in order to follow Him more fully? How can your group pray for and encourage you in this?

PRAY