



Mark 10:13-31

Personal Preparation Day 1

As we've been discovering over the last couple of weeks, Jesus has some radical things to say about what it means to be his disciple. Last week it was about marriage and divorce. This week we'll focus on the topic of money and possessions. But before Jesus says some confronting things to an impressive wealthy man, he will say some comforting things to some unappreciated little children.

We've seen Jesus interact with children before in Mark's Gospel. Now we get to another time.

Read Mark 10:13-16. What do the disciples do?

By looking at their disciples' attitude shown at other times (Mark 9:33-34; 10:35-37), what do you think is behind their refusal to let a bunch of kids get close to Jesus?

What is similar about Jesus' physical actions in Mark 9:36 and 10:16. What does this say about Jesus?

What does Jesus say about what it means to receive the Kingdom of God?

What do you enjoy about this scene of Jesus' we have in verses 10-16?

Personal Preparation Day 2

In Growth Group Discussion, we'll explore the conversation between Jesus and a young man that comes up to him to ask a very serious question about eternal life. But here are a couple of questions to help you be ready.

The man asks of Jesus, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 10:17. It's very easy for us to think eternal life is equal to heaven up in the clouds. This isn't right. The man doesn't even use the word 'heaven'. For the Jew, their expectation for the life to come was that a Kingdom _____ would be established. In this new realm, the righteous people of God would finally be vindicated and live under the rule and authority of the Christ.

Read Mark 10:17-21. Of the 10 commandments that Jesus gives to the man in response, what ones does he leave out? See Exodus 20:1-17]

Mark 10:13-31 Discussion Questions

In Personal Preparation you spent some time looking at that moment when Jesus welcomed little children into his arms. We learnt that Jesus doesn't want the disciples to put up any sort of barriers for people to come to him. Now we're going to read about the time when a man comes to Jesus but then sadly leaves again. Though Jesus has his arms ready to welcome him, he has his own barrier.

Read Mark 10:13-21

1. What picture do we get of the man who comes to Jesus, from verses 17-21? How would you describe him?

2. Do you think this Jewish man would have been surprised to hear Jesus' answer (v18-19) to his question—'what must I do to inherit eternal life'. Why/Why not?

3. What does this say about Jesus' attitude to the law?

4. What is the surprising thing that Jesus says next, v21?

Jesus' command to sell everything would have been a surprising thing to hear—not only because of the stark radicalness of it, but also because of promises in the Old Testament regarding physical abundance. See Deuteronomy 28:1-14; 1 Chronicles 4:9-10. Jesus' words cut across an Old Testament theme that physical wealth is a mark of God's blessing.

5. In Personal Preparation, we looked at the different 10 commandments that Jesus doesn't mention. Why do you think Jesus doesn't mention them in his first response to the man? Hint: is there a sense that Jesus covers these skipped commandments in what he says to the man in verse 21?

6. Why do you think the man went away from Jesus sad? v22.

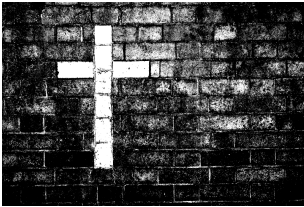
7. This wealthy man seemed to be doing so many things right, but what's the thing that counts that he's really lacking?

8. In verses 13-16 we're given a 'happy' picture of children who are welcomed into Jesus' arms. Then in contrast we're given a picture of man who sadly walks away from Jesus. How do you think this man is like a person who is not willing to receive the kingdom of God like a little child?

9. After the dejected man walks away, Jesus says some things that amaze his disciples (v24) and then even further amaze them (v26) ! What is that Jesus says and why would it have been amazing?

10. Do you find this amazing yourself?

11. It's very hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of God, but still very possible with God? How do you think God makes it possible?



Christ, the Cross & You

a) Do you think we can fall into the trap of doing certain things (eg. verse 18) and then thinking that is what secures our place in the kingdom of God? Why?

b) How does wealth work against us to not have Jesus as number 1 in our lives?

c) What should our response be?

d) After Jesus' presents some shocking truths to his disciples, he gives them some wonderful promises in verse 29? What is Jesus saying? And does this give you comfort in being a disciple of Jesus?