

Receiving the Treasure of the King - Mark 10:17-31

1. The Question

The rich young ruler was eager to meet Jesus, he ran to him to ask him his question, 'Good teacher. What must I do to receive eternal life?' Jesus first questions the man's use of the word good, not because He is denying His own deity, but because He is challenging the man to take a step of faith. The word used for good here, meant intrinsically good and the Jews only ever used it in relation to God. Through His question Jesus is asking the man, do you see me as a teacher or as God? Then discerning this man's heart, Jesus answered the question with a list of commandments, all of which the man had kept. The Jews believed that strict observance to the Ten Commandments was enough to be made righteous, to be given right standing before God and inherit eternal life, Jesus was challenging this attitude.

Q. Many people today think that they can get to heaven on their own merit; list some examples of things you've heard people say will 'save' them?

2. The Crisis

The rich man had a crisis, he was faced with a choice: to keep hold of his earthly wealth, or to follow Jesus and receive treasure in heaven. God didn't need the man's money; Jesus was helping the man to see that following him required surrendering the false security that he was clinging on to (in his case, his possessions). False security stops radical trust. This is one of the saddest verses in the bible as the man received a personal invitation to follow Jesus and yet walked away crestfallen because he chose to hold on to his wealth. This is the last we hear of this man in the Bible.

Q. Why was the man's wealth holding him back from following God?

Q. What are things that we can be tempted to place our security in, instead of God?

3. The Kingdom

The rich man decided not to follow, and Jesus proclaimed to his disciples how hard it is for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus goes on to teach three amazing things about the Kingdom:

- Entry is not reserved for the rich. God invites all in to His Kingdom, he longs for all to be saved, and he wants us to come empty-handed, trusting only in Him.
- It's impossible to save ourselves, but all things are possible with God. Not one member of the church came to faith through their own achievement.
- Whatever we give up to follow Christ, the rewards will be worth it! There are immeasurable riches stored up for us in heaven, that will be ours for eternity.

Q. What are the dangers of thinking you've done something to deserve salvation, that you've somehow earned it? How would these thoughts adversely impact your witness?

Q. In what ways would ChristCentral Church benefit if we all had to lay down the things we are holding on so tightly too and trust God more fully?

Prayer: Spend some time praying that God would reveal the areas of our lives where we have placed our trust/security in worldly things so that we can come to a place of surrender.