Mark 10:17-31

Introduction...

- Mark the Gospel to the Gentiles showing Jesus as the servant of all Mark 10:45
- Mark 1:1 6:56 Jesus ministry in Galilee...
- Mark 7:1-8:21... Confrontations with the religious leaders leaving Galilee
- Mark 8:22-9:29... Revelation of Jesus as the Christ...
 - o At Caesarea Philippi Jesus asks His disciples 'Who do men say I Am?'
 - o Peter knew who Jesus was (by the Holy Spirit) but not why He had come...
 - o Jesus took Peter, James, & John up to the top of Mt. Hermon and was transformed...
- Mark 9:30-50... Who is the greatest...
 - o On the way to Capernaum the disciples argued amongst themselves who is the greatest
 - o 1^{st} The Greatest is the servant of all (in contrast to the example of the world)
 - o 2nd The Greatest is like a child simple faith in the Father no ambition
- Mark 10:1-16... God's plan for marriage...
 - o 6 months passed the cross is only weeks away Jesus begins his final trip to Jerusalem
 - The Pharisees came to Him again testing him 'Can a man divorce his wife?'
 - o Marriage is meant to last for a lifetime Genesis 1:27, 2:24
 - 1st God gave marriage so there would be Godly children Malachi 2:15
 - 2nd God brought a man and wife together so we would understand His love for us
 - 3rd What God has brought together super glued let no one separate!
 - o If you are single (living for the Lord) don't seek to be married!
 - o If you are married have a great marriage founded on Jesus Christ!

WHAT MUST I DO TO GET TO HEAVEN... VS. 17-22

- What "Good" thing... vs. 17
 - o Jesus left the house with His disciples heading back up the road to Jerusalem...
 - A man came running up and knelt before Jesus
 - He was excited to see Jesus and shows him respect by kneeling before Him...
 - He calls Jesus "Good Teacher" and was sincerely looking for answers
 - He wanted to know what "Good" thing he should do to inherit heaven...
 - o He had the right question and he went to the right person to get the right answer...
 - We all have this question we all want to go to heaven no one wants to go to hell
 - So the answer Jesus gives him is VERY important for us as well...
 - If you want to know what "Good" you must do to go to heaven here's the answer
- Defining "Good"... vs. 18
 - o Jesus 1st had to answer his question with a question...
 - This may seem a strange response but it was necessary to answer the man's question
 - The man wanted to know what "Good" thing he should do
 - In order for Jesus to answer the question He had to define what "Good" meant

- To say that something is "Good" is not a very descriptive term on it's own...
- o To know how "Good" something is 1st you have to know what it's "Good" compared to
 - I might say that 'balut' tastes "Good"... especially if you compared to 'yabuk'
 - But compared to a big bowl of ice cream well now it's not nearly as "Good"
 - "Good" is a comparative term to know how "Good" something is...
 - You have to know what you are comparing it to
- o The definition Jesus gives for "Good" "No one is Good but One that is God!"
 - Jesus definition of Good was God Himself now that presents a problem...
 - We all think we are "Good" people few if any of us would say we are 'Bad' people
 - Yet what or who is it that we compare ourselves to "Good" compared to...
 - If the definition of "Good" was being better than a murderer OK
 - If the definition of "Good" was being better than my neighbor maybe OK
 - But since the definition of "Good" is God that means I am not "Good"
 - To be "Good" by God's definition I would need to be...
 - Matthew 5:48 "Perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."
 - That's why Jesus said NO ONE is "Good" only God...
 - So it turns out none of us are "Good" after all...
 - From the best person to the worst none are "Good" compared to God
 - Romans 3:10 "As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one..."
- Proving we are not "Good"... Vs. 19-22
 - o Proving we are not "Good" by looking at the Law of God
 - Referring to the Law of Moses found in the first 5 book of the Bible
 - Not just the 10 commandments but also all 613 commandments given in the Law!
 - The commandments of God were never meant to make us "Good"
 - They were given so that we would know we were NOT "Good"
 - Galatians 3:24 "Therefore the law was our teacher to bring us to Christ..."
 - The Law can only teach us the standard of what "Good" is...
 - Like a mirror or a measuring tape...
 - Like a mirror that can show you how you look but cannot change your appearance
 - Like a measuring tape that tells how tall you are but not help you grow
 - The Law shows us how "Bad" we are but cannot help make us "Good"
 - Realizing that is the Key to Heaven because now we know we need help!
 - o Jesus gives the rich man 6 of THE 10 commandments Exodus 20:12-17
 - Jesus gives him the 6 commands that deal with his relationship to others...
 - Do not: Murder/Adultery/Steal/Lie/Covet and honor your Father & Mother
 - The man was thrilled to hear this he said I have kept these from my youth
 - Notice that Jesus does not argue that point with him
 - This must have been a REALLY nice guy any of us would have loved him
 - He was an honest God fearing hard working man of integrity
 - It would almost seem that he was "Good" enough to inherit heaven...
 - Jesus looking at him loved him (only mentioned here) "One thing you lack..."
 - Go and sell all you have and give it to the poor (treasure in heaven) and Follow Me!
 - What Jesus was giving to the rich man was the 1st commandment

- You shall have no other god's before Me... (Exodus 20:3)
- The man wanted to go to heaven but he had another god he wanted more
- The man was VERY rich and had a LOT of "Stuff"...
 - So he went away sorry he was unwilling to put Jesus before his "Stuff"!
 - Stuff kept him from going to heaven what Stuff could be worth so much...
 - We never think that we are this rich man we think we poor...
 - Yet it is not how much Stuff that matters it's putting Stuff first I Timothy 6:10
 - When we want "Stuff" more than we want to Follow Jesus we walk away sad...
 - Yet what is it that we think we have or might have greater than Heaven?
 - Mark 8:36 "What will it profit if a man gains the whole world, loses his own soul?"
- Does that mean that everyone needs to sell all his or her Stuff...
 - There is nothing wrong with having stuff it's when the stuff has us...
 - Only if we put our Stuff before Jesus do we need to reprioritize put Jesus first!
 - Jesus command was not just to sell the stuff and give it to the poor Follow Jesus!
- o It only takes one sin...
 - The rich man only broke one law of God (recorded here)...
 - James 2:10 "Whoever keeps the whole law, yet stumble in one point, is guilty of all."
 - We may not have the same sin as the rich man but there are 612 other Laws
 - It only takes one crime to be a criminal it only takes one sin to make you a sinner!
 - So how may sins does it take to keep us out of heaven... just one
 - What if it's just a little sin a white lie taking a little rice (our neighbor has extra...)
 - Any sin just one makes us a sinner and keeps us out of heaven!

THE COST OF SALVATION... VS. 23-31

- How hard is it for a Rich man to enter heaven... vs. 23-27
 - o Why is it impossible for a rich man to be saved...
 - It's not money that makes it hard to get into heaven but "Those who trust in riches..."
 - Those who are rich have a tendency to trust in their money trust in their "Stuff"...
 - The idea being money is not necessarily a blessing it can instead become our god...
 - Depending on money to get us out of trouble provide for our needs rather than Jesus
 - If we are looking to money to be the answer then we are not looking to the Lord…
 - For those of us who have no money it is easier to trust in the Lord (no other options)
 - Where do we place our hope who do we look to in times of need money or Jesus
 - o To emphasize Jesus gives the analogy of a Camel through the eye of a needle (2 views)...
 - 1st view The eye of the needle was a gate in the wall of the city of Jerusalem
 - According to tradition the "Eye of the needle" was a very small gate
 - So small that the only way for a Camel to enter was to take off its "Stuff"...
 - The idea being the only way for a rich man to enter heaven...
 - Is for him to get rid of all his riches so he might fit through Heaven's gate
 - Sounds nice but it turns out there never was such a gate in Jerusalem...
 - 2nd view Put a Camel through the eye of a needle
 - Keep in mind a camel is about a big as a Caribou you know how small a needle is
 - You can put a Camel through the eye of a needle but you have to grind it up first

- It's pretty messy and in the end the Camel is never quite the same...
- The point being it is IMPOSSIBLE for those who trust in riches to get into heaven!

Who then can be saved...

- o When the disciples heard that it was like a punch to the stomach (astonished)...
 - If this nice man who was wealthy could not be saved who could
 - I am sure the disciples had looked at the man and thought "Good" guy
 - They likely had no reservations that he would go to heaven
 - Now suddenly someone who was better than them was not "Good" enough
 - It would be like saying the nicest kindest sweetest person you know...
 - Is still not going "Good" enough to make it to heaven
 - If they are not good enough who then can be "Good" enough to inherit eternal life...
- o With men it is impossible...
 - Jesus answer to getting to heaven with God all things are possible!
 - It is not being a sinner (we all are Roman 3:23) that keeps us from heaven
 - It is rejecting the solution for sin that God provided in Jesus Christ
 - We are not saved by being "Good" enough to get into heaven
 - We are saved by believing in the sacrifice that Jesus made for our sin on the cross
 - **Ephesians 2:8-9** "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."
 - We do not earn our way to Heaven Heaven is a gift to those who believe in Jesus!

WE HAVE LEFT ALL... Vs. 28-32

- o Peter began to say 'We have left all and followed you...'
 - Recognizing the qualification that Jesus gave to the rich man...
 - Peter reminds Jesus the disciples had left all (not that they had much to leave)...
- o The promise...
 - Assuredly I say to you there is no one who has left…
 - Houses /Brothers/Sisters/Father/Mother/Wife/Children/ or Lands...
 - For the sake of the Gospel for the sake of following after Jesus...
 - The cost for following Jesus is everything putting Him before anything else
 - That may seem to be to great a price to pay for many yet the promises are given...
 - Those who have left are given 3 promises...
 - 1st No one has ever left anything that will not receive 100 times that in this life...
 - I left my family in New York only to be given family all over the world 100 fold!
 - 2nd Oh by the way there will be persecution thrown in as well **John 16:33**
 - 3rd But most of all they will get to go to Heaven!
- The first shall be last...
 - Likely a response to Peter's boast of having 'left all' for Jesus...
 - Jesus explains the meaning in the parable of the 'Land Owner' Matthew 20:1-16
 - Whether you are saved young or old your reward is Heaven!
 - Whether you are first or last the reward is still Heaven!
 - Whether you were the greatest Apostle or only saved a day Heaven!
 - In other words it's not about how much work you do for the Lord...

•	It is all about the fact that –	through the gift of salvation -	- you get to go to heaven!