

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...
 - At Caesarea Philippi Jesus asks His disciples – ‘Who do men say I Am?’
 - Peter knew who Jesus was (*by the Holy Spirit*) – but not why He had come...
 - Jesus took Peter, James, & John up to the top of Mt. Hermon and was transformed...
- **MARK 9:30-50...** WHO IS THE GREATEST...
 - On the way to Capernaum – the disciples argued amongst themselves – who is the greatest
 - 1st – The Greatest is the servant of all (*in contrast to the example of the world*)
 - 2nd – The Greatest is like a child – simple faith in the Father – no ambition
- **MARK 10:1-16...** GOD’S PLAN FOR MARRIAGE...
 - 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?’
 - 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!
 - If you are single (living for the Lord) – don’t seek to be married!
 - 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**
 - 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...
 - 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**
 - 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 many 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 as 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...**
 - 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...
 - 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**
 - 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*)...
 - 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!