



WEEK 5 STUDY GUIDE

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Monday May 23, 2022

Read: Mark 10:17-31

Scripture Verse: *“As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Mark 10:17*

Today's Thought:

Like it or not, we are all seekers of God. Whether we clearly position ourselves as a believer or not, or are among those who claim not to need spiritual support, the question of God's influence on our lives has always crossed our minds at one time or another. Every human being has a void in his soul, spirit, his life that can only be filled by God himself. It is natural in the human heart to long for something outside itself, something transcendent, something superior to himself. God created us with the spirit of eternity. He made us for his eternal purpose and only he can fulfill this desire in our heart. Many people attempt to ignore this emptiness or attempt to fill it with things other than God.

The book of Mark tells us the story of a rich man who, although apparently sure of himself, came to Jesus and expressed his doubts: “What must I do to inherit eternal life? Perhaps you are asking the same question: “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” This is the right question that each of us must ask.

In verse 17 quoted above, we discover that this man heard about Jesus' teaching, he heard about eternal life. So, he wanted this eternal life, but he didn't know how to have it. He was a religious person, legalist but not certain of eternal life. This rich man was looking for a smooth communion with the living God, but he didn't know how to get it. To be rich and be a good person in his own mind meant nothing to Jesus.

If you really want an answer to this question, the answer is simple. Just trusting in Jesus alone, the only Son of God. There is no other name. “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved” Acts 4:12. You must accept Jesus as the incarnate son of God who came to earth to be our substitute for sin. It is trusting that his ultimate sacrifice paid the price for our sins, and that by faith we are born again into the family of God. You must believe that Jesus took the punishment that you deserved, by grace you have been saved, through faith. You have been declared

righteous by God.

Believe in Jesus. Do not just believe in him as a historical person or with a temporary faith. It is a question of accepting his teaching. He was sent by God to pay the price for your sin. Rely on him alone for the salvation of your soul, rather than relying on your own good works for eternal life.

Please say this prayer: Dear God, I know I'm a sinner. I sin against you. I know you love me; you care about me, and you are willing to save me. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me, rose from the dead, paid the price for my sin. I surrender myself to him. I receive him as Lord and savior of my life forever. Amen!

- Do you agree that every human being has an emptiness in his life? If so, describe this emptiness. Who can fill this emptiness?
- What was the main doubt of the rich man?
- What is eternal life?
- What do you think you can do to have eternal life?
- What does believing in Jesus Christ mean for you?

Further Reading: Acts 4: 7-13

Tuesday May 24, 2022

Read: Mark 10:17-31

Scripture Verse: *“Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.” Mark 10:21-22*

Today’s Thought:

Imagine at the end of your life thinking: “I have reached the pinnacle of success in the business world. In the eyes of others, my life is a success. However, aside from work, I have little joy. In the end, wealth is just a lifestyle that I’ve grown accustomed to. In this moment, lying on my hospital bed, and remembering my whole life, I realize that all the recognition and wealth in which I took so much pride, has paled and become insignificant in the face of death.”

The author of the book of Ecclesiastes had reason to say: **“Meaningless! Meaningless! Says the Teacher. Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”** In this world, nothing has a lasting and permanent value. Success, wealth, power, invention all are temporary. The author convinces us of the futility of wealth because it cannot satisfy man’s emptiness. Nothing that has been created can satisfy our soul. Happiness and joy can only be found in Jesus Christ.

Therefore, we have seen the rich man ask this question to Jesus: “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Yesterday we explained what it means and how someone can have eternal life. Now we are going to see what created a barrier to the rich man to follow Jesus.

Sadly, too many spend their lives looking for something other than God to fill their longing for meaning in business, family, etc. In pursuing these things that are not eternal, they remain unfulfilled, and their lives still seem unsatisfying. When someone pursues things other than God, he finds a measure of happiness for a time but not supernatural joy.

So, the wealthy man asked Jesus about eternal life, but he didn’t like Jesus’s response. **“... Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”** This man showed more interest in his money than God. His interest in God was

very limited compared to his wealth. Something the rich man forgot, **“The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, without painful toil for it” Proverbs 10:22.** Wealth comes from the Lord and should be recognized as such and not attributed to our own capacity. Instead of dedicating his riches to God, he preferred to put his confidence in his wealth, he gave much more value to the wealth than Jesus. He didn't consider God as the giver. The rich man made a great mistake, he gave more value to the gift than the giver for this reason he went away sad.

Jesus wanted to double his wealth but his lack of understanding, his greed (having a great desire for wealth) put a barrier to receive a double blessing. Jesus wanted to give him a spiritual blessing which can give the real sense to his life. Jesus wanted to bless him in faith, in love. The man prefers to trust in perishable things such as silver and gold, instead of trusting in Jesus as redeemer through his precious blood we have been saved.

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, my redeemer, help me to see you more clearly, to follow you more closely, to love you more deeply, to value you more than anything you give me. Help me to remember that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you redeemed me from the empty way of life, but with your precious blood shed for me on the cross.

- What did Jesus say for the rich man to do that made him sad?
- What is greed?
- Why is it dangerous to be greedy?
- In a world that places great value on wealth, how can the Christian manage his material possession compared to God?
- What is the best investment you can make with your life?
- What the correct attitude can you adopt today toward earthly wealth?

Further Reading: Proverbs 10: 20–30

Wednesday May 25, 2022

Read: Mark 10:17-31

Scripture Verse: *“Jesus look at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.” Mark 10:27*

Today’s Thought:

We have seen how the rich man was very sad because of what Jesus asked him to do. We have seen that the rich man considered wealth as the great goal of life, because it brought him influence in his community. He put his confidence in his wealth but ignored: “How great is our God.” He ignored that everything belongs to God and God can offer him what is necessary to satisfy his desires and needs, to make him happy and give him supernatural joy. He wanted this man to devote himself entirely to him for a spiritual blessing.

Now, we are going to see that all things are possible with God. Throughout the Bible, God accomplished impossible things. For examples:

The Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land (Exodus 14:21b)

Sarah and Elizabeth, barren women conceived (Genesis 18:14, Luke 1:13)

Mary a virgin gave birth to the Son of God (Luke 2: 7)

And so, on

All these servants of God mentioned above understood that nothing is impossible for God, only God can accomplish everything.

Jesus wanted his followers to know that he is God, his name is Emmanuel (God is with us), nothing is impossible for him. He wanted them to experience more than mere survival, wealth does not last. He came to give more than material possessions. He came to give life in abundance (John 10:10). He wants us to invite him in our messes so he can demonstrate his power. Remember what he has done:

He brought the synagogue leader’s daughter back to life (Mark 5:21-43)

The widow’s only son (Luke 7:11-17)

His friend Lazarus (John 11:40-44)

Jesus makes impossible possible. He can turn any defeat into victory. He just needs obedience and submission to Jesus' words.

Likewise, our progress, our success depends on our determination to do the will of God in our life in all circumstances. Nothing should have more value than our obedience to the requirements of God. Whatever you are going through, bring it to him. Addiction, problems of any kind of drug, he can turn it to freedom. If your marriage is about to end, he can fix it.

John Piper said: "There is no disease, no addiction, no demon, no bad habit, no fault, no vice, no weakness, no temper, no moodiness, no pride, no self-pity, no strife, no jealousy, no perversion, no greed, no laziness that Christ will not overcome as the enemy of his Honor."

If God guided his people out of Egypt and crossed the Red Sea, we have the right to cry out loud: "All things are possible with God!" If Jesus fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fish, raised the dead and opened the eyes of blind, "All things are possible with God." His death on the cross, resurrection from the grave, provided the way to heaven for sinful mankind who could never get there on their own, "all things are possible with God."

Father God, thank you for this relationship with you through your Son Jesus. Thank you for this revelation: "To you all is possible." I believe you can fix everything. I invite you into my messes, to demonstrate your power. When everything becomes worse, please take over and make it possible."

- Is it true that all things are possible with God?
- Could you mention two things in the Bible God has done that really proves to you that nothing is impossible with God?
- Can you mention two things God has done in your life that truly prove that nothing is impossible with God?
- What is the most important thing to understand about "all things are possible with God?"
- Why is it important to seek God?

Further Reading: John 11:32-44

Thursday May 26, 2022

Read: Mark 10:17-31

Scripture Verse: *“Truly I tell you, Jesus replied, no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel, will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields – along with persecutions – and in the age to come eternal life.” Mark 10:29-30*

Today's Thought:

We have seen nothing is impossible with God. He can turn our defeat to victory when we live in obedience to his requirements. One of the most important requirements of God is: we must be ready to give up everything to follow his Son Jesus Christ. For this reason, Jesus said to the rich man trusting in riches can prevent you from entering the kingdom of God.

Jesus took this opportunity to teach his disciples to seek spiritual wealth. They need to sacrifice certain things in order to receive the greatest blessing: **“eternal life.”** This teaching is for you and I, we need to sacrifice whatever God asks us for his kingdom. Trusting in material possessions can keep us from entering the kingdom of God. We must be willing to give up everything God requires to be a true disciple of Christ. Sacrifice your will to the will of God brings a double blessing. Anyone who decides to forsake the things of the world and serve Jesus with all his heart, mind, strength and body will receive a double blessing.

God decides to increase your territory for what you have endured because of his name. your blessings will be greatly increased and multiplied; he will bring restoration of life. Jesus promised a great reward to those who remained faithful to him. Although Jesus speaks of reward, he also warns of the reality of persecution. The life of those who follow Jesus will also include persecution. I can look back and see how true this has been in my own life. I left my country and everything at home, fled to USA because of kidnapping, my wife had a broken leg, and we had no place to live. Sometimes you are going to have to leave your home, your family, your business or your employment to follow Jesus. So, when you follow him like that, there are multiplied rewards and blessings even in this life.

Nevertheless, those who make sacrifices for the sake of Jesus will find

that what they receive in eternity is incomparably greater than anything they may have lost in the present world. We may have to sacrifice wealth, status, family or friends, but in the age to come we will reign with Christ. God values those who humble themselves before him (Matt 19:23-26). Do not let your comfort, prosperity, knowledge prevent you from giving yourself to God, from receiving eternal life. Everyone who voluntarily forsakes home, relatives or property for the sake of God and the gospel will receive a hundred times more in this life and in the world to come, eternal life. Your Jubilee will not be long in coming.

Lord Jesus, thank you for your word. Thank you for all the promises made to those who humble themselves before you. Help me to be willing to forsake everything you require to be your true disciple. Fashion your word in my mind, direct my hands and feet to serve you, obey you, and cling to your word. Help me to quit resisting, arguing and rationalizing with you. Do not let my comfort, prosperity, knowledge prevent me from giving myself to you, from receiving eternal life.

- What were the early disciples asked to sacrifice?
- What are the disciples today being asked to sacrifice to follow Jesus?
- What has Jesus asked you to leave to follow him?
- What blessings will you receive for following Jesus?
- How will you be rewarded?

Further Reading: Luke 14:25-35

Friday May 27, 2022

Read: Mark 10:17-31

Scripture Verse: *“But many who are first will be last, and the last first.” Mark 10:31*

Today’s Thought:

If someone has something very precious, he grips it with a very tight hand. A shaking hand will very soon be an empty hand. No wise person will ever walk through a crowd with their purse open and full of money. Caution will be required because caution is the mother of safety. Eternal life is very precious because we obtained it by grace through the *blood shed of Jesus*. We must hold it firm, so if we don’t hold it fast, it could slip. **“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” 1 Peter 5:8**

As Christian, we must hold fast to the eternal life we have in Jesus Christ. Hold fast his word, his truth, his grace. Use honestly and diligently your intellect, your sense of discernment to put in practice the principles of the gospel. As a servant of God, you might drop everything that can prevent you from staying in Christ first. Top priorities to help you keep Jesus Christ first are meditation of the word of God, faithful obedience to God, constant communion with God and your brothers and sisters in Christ, and being at peace with your fellow men. Do what God asks you to do, and he will give you what he has reserved for you.

So, the true way to be first is to keep faith in Jesus and his word. Mankind, things of this world, wealth and devil may try to take you away from God, but cling to Jesus and make him really your own, and the eternal life which God has promised you in Jesus Christ will be yours. Eternal life will not be just to live forever, but a quality of life in the presence of God. He who has and holds fast to Christ in this world will be never last. We have seen a rich man who approached Jesus, he pretended to be a good person, pretended he had respected the code of morality, Moses’ law, but he refused the true love that Jesus offered him, the most important for his life. He granted more importance to his wealth than obedience to the requirements of heaven. Jesus saw in this man an attachment to his wealth, something that was harmful to him. The rich man didn’t feel ready to leave his comfort zone to follow Jesus. This rich man thought that his wealth could make him first without surrendering his life to Jesus.

Jesus is not making empty promises, following Jesus means following the way of the cross, of persecution, of tribulation, and humiliation.

Lord Jesus, keep me from developing an attitude of: "I don't care" of you and your word. Alert me to the many holes and traps that the enemy digs in my paths. Help me to depend on you alone, every moment of the day. Control my path from sunrise to sunset. Do not let me turn to the right or to the left, help me to fix my eyes on you, to be a true follower of you. The day will come where I will hear your voice say: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

- What is the true way to be first in the kingdom of God?
- Why is eternal life very precious to you? And what should you do?
- Can you mention some priorities that could help you stay first with God?
- What could the rich man not leave to be first in the kingdom of God?
- What can prevent you from being first in the kingdom of God?

Further Reading: Revelation 3:7-12

NOTES



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