

23S08 Mark 10:17-31 (Part 23)

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our study of the gospel according to Mark with Mark 10:17-31 (Part 23) the story of the rich young ruler.

Before we start, we need to understand a little about this amazing book in the bible. Most historians believe Mark was the first written account of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. The identity of Mark is not known for sure, but most believe this is John Mark. John Mark is spoken of by Luke in Acts as the cousin of Barnabas, John Mark is mentioned in many other books on the New Testament. Many believe he spent time traveling with Peter, so it is thought that much of Mark's gospel is actually from the perspective of Peter. We also believe that John Mark knew Jesus. There are accounts that Jesus stayed at Mark's mother's home, there are also some unique story details in Mark that are not in either Matthew's or Luke's accounts. We will try to highlight some of these as we go through the stories in Mark.

I'm reading from the New American Standard version (NAS) today.

Let's read Mark 10:17-31 (NAS) *17As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do so that I may inherit eternal life?" 18But Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. 19You know the commandments: 'DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT GIVE FALSE TESTIMONY, Do not defraud, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.'"* *20And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth."* *21Looking at him, Jesus showed love to him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."* *22But he was deeply dismayed by these words, and he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property. 23And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, "How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!" 24And the disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus responded again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." 26And they were even more astonished, and said to Him, "Then who can be saved?" 27Looking at them, Jesus said, "With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God." 28Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and have followed You." 29Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, 30but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. 31But many who are first will be last, and the last, first."*

Let's pray. **Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your words from Mark, help us see what Mark wants his readers to understand and why. I pray that you help me stay**

out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.

Now, let's take a closer look at these verses, Mark 10:17 (NAS) *17As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do so that I may inherit eternal life?"*

How many of us start our conversations with Jesus this way. Humble and with excitement.

Jesus can see straight through our pretenses. Mark 10:18-19 (NAS) *18But Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. 19You know the commandments: 'DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT GIVE FALSE TESTIMONY, Do not defraud, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.'"*

Only God is good. I wonder if Jesus was probing whether this young man was ready to accept Jesus was indeed God in the flesh. But as Jesus often does, He answers with a question, "you know the commandments."

Mark 10:20-21 (NAS) *20And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth." 21Looking at him, Jesus showed love to him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."*

I sense a little arrogance in the young man thinking he has been perfect. But Jesus wants to reveal to us what is really important. Give everything back to God, then follow him. It is the same today. We have to realize God actually owns everything, then acknowledge this. Whatever God asks us to do with what we have been given is exactly what we should do.

Next Mark 10:22 (NAS) *22But he was deeply dismayed by these words, and he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.*

If there is something you have or want that is more important than Jesus, then you must cast it away. What is more important, things and opinions or eternity with Jesus, you have to decide.

Next Mark 10:23-26 (NAS) *23And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, "How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!" 24And the disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus responded again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."*

Now this is an often misquoted and mistranslated scripture. What does God mean by camel, eye of a needle. Is it impossible for rich people to enter the kingdom of God? I

think we focus too much on this and miss the message Jesus had for us. He was showing love the rich young ruler by pointing out what was coming between him and God. But are riches the reason, let's see together.

Now our story pivots to another issue, Mark 10:26-27 (NAS) *²⁶And they were even more astonished, and said to Him, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷Looking at them, Jesus said, "With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God."*

Did you see it? *"With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God."* The disciples felt earthly riches were a reflection of God raining blessings on righteous people, but that simply not true. It is equally not true that riches in themselves are evil. The apostle Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 6:10 (NAS) *For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.* So it is the love of money not money. It's anything we put as more important than Jesus. We can only serve one master, Jesus or money. So, yes rich people will be in heaven. It is not whether they have money but what they did with those resources. Was God first in their lives. Only with God is it possible.

Next Mark 10:28-31 (NAS) *²⁸Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and have followed You." ²⁹Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, ³⁰but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last, first."*

Did you hear what Jesus said. Children of God receive many times more than we give up for Him. But. rem. er there are often But's. But it will come with persecution in this life but we have more beyond this life, so what does this short time matter? Live giving all to God's plan. Put God first in everything no matter whether that is a teacher, a store clerk, a parent, do it all as to unto the Lord.

Let's review.

- 1) Riches? Are riches evil? Well no. God created everything as good, so nothing in God's creation is evil in itself. How we use it and abuse it can be wrong. If God has given you much, then much is expected. So only with God first in their life can a rich man enter the kingdom of God.
- 2) Surrender? The disciples gave up everything to follow Jesus. And Jesus promised them more than they could imagine. Put God first above everything else and God promises to guide you to the most amazing and fulling life you could never imagine. It might be as a teacher or doctor or farmer. But when we do everything for God according to God's plan, we get something better than we could ever dream of.

Let's Pray. Heavenly Father thank you for Bible. Help us to read and meditate on your words so we can hear the message you have for us. Help us to remember who you are Lord. You are our king, king of kings. You are our Lord, Lord over everyone. We can trust you, Lord. Help us to ask you for wisdom when we don't understand. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen

Let me leave you with this today. Jesus loves us. Don't miss this. Jesus loves us. But because He loves us, He wants what's best for us, not what we imagine would be best. Money can be a great stumbling block for many. The fear of not having money or losing money can paralyze us away from what God really wants for us. Don't love money more than God.

What does this mean for you? Search your life and your heart, what is it that you value more than Jesus. Whatever that thing is, surrender it to God. It's His anyway. Trust God knows what is best for what is His. Then feel that flood of hope and peace that can only come from God. Now you are equipped to use the things God has gifted you with for the purposes of the owner God. A bigger and better life which is more fulfilling and satisfying than anything we can imagine for ourselves.

Thank you for joining me for our study of the gospel of Mark. Please email me comments or feedback. And if you liked the message, please share the link with your friends. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.