

“Our Eternal Reward – Part 2”  
Mark 10:28-31  
(Preached at Trinity, April 3, 2013)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. In **Verse 17** Mark began the account of the Rich Young Ruler. Everything through **Verse 31** has this as the context.  
In **Verse 21** Jesus commanded him to divest himself of those things that were his idols and come follow Him.
  - A. This is the response demanded by the Gospel. Repent, and follow Christ. To follow Christ is to recognize Him as Savior and Lord. As Savior we embrace His death as fully sufficient to cover our sins. As Lord we pledge ourselves to a life of following Him.
  - B. He was unwilling and went away sorrowful.
2. Once again, Jesus found Himself alone with His disciples, and once again Jesus took the opportunity to teach them concerning the nature of His kingdom.  
**Mark 10:23 NAU** - "And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, "How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!"
  - A. They were shocked. Or as Mark stated it,  
**Mark 10:26 NAU** - " They were even more astonished and said to Him, "Then who can be saved?"
  - B. They were surely considering the Rich Young Ruler's qualities  
They concluded, if he can't be saved then nobody can
  - C. Jesus' response:  
**Mark 10:27 NAU** - "With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God."
3. Once again, Peter speaks up. He is still thinking about our Lord's words in **Verse 21**  
**Mark 10:21 NAU** - "go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."
  - A. Jesus commanded the Rich Young Ruler to forsake all and follow Christ. Peter considered his life and the life of the other apostles and declares:  
**Mark 10:28 NAU** - "Behold, we have left everything and followed You."  
Matthew records a fuller statement:  
**Matthew 19:27 NAS** - "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?"
  - B. He wants to know what reward he can expect for what he has given up.  
Again, he is considering our Lord's words to the Rich Young Ruler.  
"go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven
  - C. What exactly is the disciple's reward?
4. In His answer Jesus speaks of two aspects of our reward, one aspect is in the realm of this age and the other aspect is reserved for eternity.  
**Mark 10:30 NAU** - "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."

5. Last time we focused on the first. There is infinite reward in this life. Our reward far exceeds anything that we lose. Jesus declares a hundredfold reward of everything forsaken. The term “hundred fold” is sometimes used to describe “many times over.”
6. The chief and greatest of all rewards is Christ. This has always been true. God created us to treasure Him.  
**Genesis 15:1 KJV** - "After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I *am* thy shield, *and* thy exceeding great reward."
7. Jesus Christ is our greatest treasure, our highest reward. Our highest reward is our union with Christ; to share all things with Him. Even His suffering.  
**Mark 10:30 NAU** - "along with persecutions"  
**Philippians 3:10-11 NAU** - "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;<sup>11</sup> in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."
8. I had originally planned to stop here and go on to consider our eternal reward. After all Jesus Christ is the Alpha and Omega, the full sum of all things, the greatest of all rewards. But there are other things the Christian enjoys in this life that flow forth from our union with Christ.
9. Let me share some of the other blessings that flow forth from Christ our sure reward. Some other blessings in the here and now—other aspects of our present reward
- A. The Holy Spirit has been given as an earnest of our eternal inheritance  
**2 Corinthians 1:21-22 NAS** - "Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."  
**2 Corinthians 5:4 NAS** - "For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed, but to be clothed, in order that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge."
1. The Holy Spirit testifies of our adoption; the present assurance that we are the children of God.  
**Galatians 4:6 NAU** - "Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"
  2. The Holy Spirit gives us gifts for the edification of the church
  3. The Holy Spirit gives us wonderful marks of holiness which Paul refers to as the fruit of the Spirit  
**Galatians 5:22-23 NAU** - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control"
  4. The Holy Spirit provides with the reward of preserving and sustaining life. He keeps us and protects us. Nothing shall separate us from the love of Christ!
- B. God has given us His Word
1. David declares;  
**Psalms 119:162 NAU** - "I rejoice at Your word, As one who finds great spoil."  
**NKJ** - "I rejoice at Your word As one who finds great treasure."
  2. The Bible is the chief means of grace whereby a Christian grows in holiness  
**Psalms 119:9-11 KJV** - "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word.<sup>10</sup> With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.<sup>11</sup> Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

- C. He has given us the gift of prayer – the ability to come before His throne of grace, the great source of comfort and peace as we go through the afflictions of this life  
**Philippians 4:6-7 KJV** - "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.  
<sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
- D. The hope of our eternal destiny  
**Romans 5:1-2 NAU** - "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God."  
**Romans 15:13 NAU** - " Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."  
 There will be peace and contentment on the deathbed of a faithful Christian  
**1 Corinthians 15:58 NAS** - "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord."  
 William Gurnall writes, "Life is a time for working, and death for receiving the reward suitable to the work. Hence it is when death is approaching, conscience (if not seared and past all feeling) is then carried back to review what the man has been doing, for whom he has been laboring, and therefore must bring in heavy tidings to the sinner of his approaching misery. Then it rips up all the stitches of that false peace which the ungodly wretch had been bolstered up with, and tells him that now the righteous judge is at hand to pay him the dismal wages due to him for all the wicked works he has done, which makes the thoughts of death a terror to him. But the sincere Christian, who has labored faithfully in the Lord's work, then has a pleasant prospect to behold when he looks back upon his conscionable walking, and can thence make his humble appeal to God, and desire Him to remember how he has walked before Him in truth, and with a perfect heart. Oh what joy is this to his poor heart, that his conscience bears him witness that he has endeavored to walk before God with godly simplicity and not in guile? He can cast himself upon the mercy of God in Christ, and breathe out his soul with a joyful expectation of being received into the kingdom of glory"
- E. He has given us a glorious family - The family of God  
**Mark 10:29-30 NAU** - "Jesus 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, <sup>30</sup> but 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."  
**1 Corinthians 12:26-27 NAU** - " And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. <sup>27</sup> Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it."
- F. The reward of increase in this family  
**Philippians 4:1 NAU** - "Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved."

- G. The blessing of contentment – a contentment that goes beyond this world  
**Colossians 3:1-4 NAU** - "Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.  
<sup>2</sup> Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory."  
**Philippians 4:11-13 NAU** - "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. <sup>12</sup> I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."
- H. The reward of greater usefulness as we are faithful in our labors  
**Matthew 25:21 NAU** - "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'  
 William Gurnall – "The Christian's conscionable labor in the Lord's work will gain him more ability and holy skill to do his work still better. By exercising himself daily unto godliness, he becomes more ready and prepared for every good work; by daily combating with his corruption and resisting temptations, he learns more easily to overcome his enemy. And if in worldly trades it is accounted a sufficient reward to an apprentice in serving out his time, to learn the mystery of his calling, oh what a reward is it to learn more fully the mystery of godliness by the daily practice of it."  
**1 Timothy 3:13 NAU** - "For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."
10. How much do we lose by not recognizing these wonderful blessings promised to the people of God? How foolish for a Christian to become distracted by the things of this world and of this life and forget his or her heritage.
11. The true blessings of this life are completely opposite to what the lost man perceives.
1. The lost man sees the greatest blessings in what he has in this life
  2. This was the problem with the Rich Young Ruler.
    - a. It was also the problem with the perception of the Apostles.  
**Mark 10:26 NAU** - "They were even more astonished and said to Him, "Then who can be saved?"
    - b. If this rich man so apparently blessed by God cannot be saved then who can?
  3. The Gospel turns everything upside-down – "first last and last first"