

## Message #36

## Mark 10:28-31

There is a very dangerous seduction that tugs at most people in this world. It is the seduction of wealth and riches. Most people invest their entire lives to accumulate wealth for themselves. They think about it and dream about it.

They earn, they sell, they save and they invest and they hoard, with the goal of having more for self and their family. Now there is nothing wrong with having money. In fact, we need it to live. The real danger is not having money, it is loving money. The truth is most people love themselves and they love their money much more than God. Most people love themselves and their money far more than they do Jesus Christ. **Most people are far more interested in their economic success than they are their spiritual and eternal success.**

The problem is money is temporal. For the most part, everything we have here is temporal. We cannot take it with us. **But if we are wise what we will always be prepared to do in this life is to compare that which is temporal to that which is eternal.**

For example, let's say we use most of our money to indulge ourselves and to enjoy ourselves. Let's say we don't deny ourselves anything. Oh we may throw a few bucks in the offering plate, but to actually deny ourselves something and actually sacrifice for the Lord is something we just aren't prepared to do.

On the other hand, let us say that someone else does sacrificially give to the Lord. They did go without some things they could have had because they wanted to see the work of God progress. **Now here is the question: When it comes time to go into eternity, which person do you think will be honored most? When one gets before Jesus Christ, which person would you rather be?**

The disciples were astonished when the rich man was turned down because there was nothing he could do to enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus just got done telling His disciples that it was impossible for anyone to save himself. Neither the poor man nor the rich man could save himself. Only God can save and God will only save one who believes in Him.

These disciples had believed in Christ and been with the Lord for over two years. They were not the elite rich. They did not have the money that rich young ruler had. I am sure they had goals and dreams for themselves like everyone else. We know that some of them had been in the fishing business and they earned a good living. Matthew had been a tax collector and he had made a lot of money in his life. I am certain each of these disciples wanted the best for themselves and their families.

They had believed in Christ and they had followed Christ. In fact, they had left their businesses and families and friends and they had followed Him. They knew they could not get into the kingdom by their works or by their sacrifices, but they were all wondering about their future. As Dr. H. A. Ironside said, had they "risked all on a forlorn hope" (*Mark*, p. 157).

What Jesus teaches His disciples and us is this:

**ANY WHO BELIEVE IN ME AND MAKE PERSONAL, TEMPORAL SACRIFICES FOR ME WILL RECEIVE GREAT COMPENSATION IN GOD'S ETERNAL KINGDOM.**

What Jesus actually says to these disciples is when you temporarily give up things for Jesus Christ, there are no permanent sacrifices because there will be amazing future compensation. If you go without some things so you can give more to the Lord, you will never regret it because what you were willing to go without will give you future compensation.

Now the disciples had many, many shortcomings. Jesus had told Peter he was satanic at one point and they lacked power and they lacked faith. Frankly, in many ways these disciples were a mess. They were a work in progress. But Jesus wanted them to know that their sacrifices and their commitment to Him did matter.

The disciples had been listening carefully to what Jesus told the rich young ruler and Peter decided to speak for the whole group of disciples. They had followed Jesus Christ. They were not like that rich young ruler who wouldn't do it. So Peter said, "Look," "Behold":

1) We have left everything. **10:28a**

2) We have followed you. **10:28b**

We know this won't save us but we have left everything and we have followed you so what does that mean? **Is there any value to the sacrifices we have made?**

Now the "we have left everything" is an aorist tense verb, meaning there was a point of time when we left everything to follow you. The "we have followed you" is a perfect tense verb, meaning there was a point of time when we began to follow you and we still follow you and will follow you in the future.

Now when Peter says, "we left everything" it would not appear as if he totally divested himself of everything he owned. In fact, we know that since making this commitment, he still seemed to own a fishing boat and a home (Mark 1:29; 3:9; 4:1, 36; 21:3).

So since Peter says to Jesus that we have left everything and since Jesus does not say to Peter "no you haven't," we may assume that the "leaving everything" refers to sacrificing anything that would be a "roadblock to their commitment to Jesus Christ." They totally trusted in Jesus Christ and were willing to follow Him wherever He went.

When Zacchaeus committed his life to Christ, he gave up half, not all of what he had and Jesus said "salvation has come to this house" (Luke 19:9).

Joseph of Arimathea was a very wealthy man and follower of the Lord. What he is specifically remembered for is that he used a lot of his money to care for the body of the Lord (Mark 15:42-46).

So the idea of giving up everything means nothing a person has stands in the way of his relationship to Jesus Christ or his willingness to follow Jesus Christ.

So Jesus decides to assure these disciples and let them know that their commitment to Him would pay rich dividends.

Notice **verse 29** begins with Jesus saying, **“truly I say to you.”** The adverb “truly” means this is dogmatic truth. The verb “say” is present tense, meaning these things are continual things.

Also notice there is **“no one”** who has left who will not be compensated. This is a way of saying “anyone” who does these things for the sake of Jesus Christ and the Gospel will be compensated. **So this is not just for the twelve apostles, this is for anyone.**

Now the commitment is made **“for my sake”** and **“for the gospel’s sake.”** This shows us the close connection between the Gospel and Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the Gospel. He is the grace of God. **So the sacrifice that is made is one that is made on account of or because of Jesus Christ and the Gospel.** This is not just giving money to any charity. This is not saying that God will reward all philanthropic donations.

When we give up something so that the truth of Jesus Christ and the Gospel may go out, then Jesus promises tremendous compensation.

We have built a new church here that is dedicated to accurately proclaiming the truth of Jesus Christ to the whole world. Many of you sacrificially give so we can have this. You will never regret it in eternity. The sacrifices you made for God’s Word will be greatly compensated.

Now there are two main compensation thoughts communicated in these verses:

**COMPENSATION THOUGHT #1** – Thoughts concerning a commitment to Jesus Christ.  
**10:29**

Here we are in a nice church building enjoying our affluent life and we come to one of the most challenging of all passages in the Church Age.

What Jesus does here is give a series of commitment statements. In other words, He expresses various types of commitments and results. In fact, notice Jesus says, **“I say to you.”** **What He says is I will more than make up to you every sacrifice you have made for Me.** These are the kinds of things one could potentially give up to follow Him.

**Commitment Statement #1** - Whoever has left a house for the cause of Jesus Christ and the Gospel will receive great reward in eternity. **10:29a**

Now the idea is that you are leaving a house or selling a house to follow Jesus Christ and present the Gospel. A house offers a form of security.

**Commitment Statement #2** - Whoever has left family for the cause of Jesus Christ and the Gospel will receive great reward in eternity. **10:29b**

Now Jesus lists some types of family members one could potentially leave. The family could include five mentioned groups that one could potentially leave:

**(Family Member #1)** - One who follows Christ could potentially leave brothers.

**(Family Member #2)** - One who follows Christ could potentially leave sisters.

**(Family Member #3)** - One who follows Christ could potentially leave mother.

**(Family Member #4)** - One who follows Christ could potentially leave father.

**(Family Member #5)** - One who follows Christ could potentially leave children.

These disciples had followed Christ and some of them had left everything mentioned here.

This goes against the grain of what most believe and teach. In fact, I know of some schools that actually promote that if the whole family isn't behind the decision to follow the Lord, you must put the wife and family first.

**Commitment Statement #3** - Whoever has left farms for the cause of Jesus Christ and the Gospel will receive great reward in eternity. **10:29c**

When Jesus mentions farm, He is mentioning land. In this culture, as in our culture, a farm sits on land. To walk away from a farm with land would be a major sacrifice. But if one were to do that, there would be tremendous future remuneration.

**COMPENSATION THOUGHT #2-** Thoughts concerning compensation for a commitment to Jesus Christ. **10:30**

Now having worked through the sacrificial commitment statements, He now makes four eternal compensation statements:

**Compensation Statement #1** - One who sacrifices for me will receive 100 times as much now in the present age. **10:30**

We are living in an unstable economy and Jesus says let me tell you something that is a sure economic bet. **Jesus Christ will give more than anyone can imagine to one who sacrifices for Him.** No matter what we sacrifice for the Lord, God will make up for it and repay it one hundred fold.

In the first century when these apostles did leave things, they did receive not just 100 times as much, but actually thousands of times as much. They became part of the Church that reached thousands of people and they developed new family relationships. Those apostles were literally taken into the homes of hundreds of people, were fed by hundreds of people and were supported by hundreds of people.

- 1) He will receive one hundred times the houses.
- 2) He will receive one hundred times the brothers.
- 3) He will receive one hundred times the sisters.
- 4) He will receive one hundred times the mothers.
- 5) He will receive one hundred times the children.
- 6) He will receive one hundred times the farms.

What people who sacrifice for Christ will discover is that God will abundantly supply and provide.

- 7) He will receive one hundred times the persecutions.

Now we know that this is not just talking about physical benefits because from a physical perspective if one is to commit himself or herself to Jesus Christ, one will be persecuted.

Now a critical question that **verse 30** causes us to ask is this—in what sense does a believer gain homes and family and farms and fields and persecutions in this age.

Well certainly we could say that when one dedicates himself/herself to Jesus Christ and the Gospel, a whole new spiritual family is enjoyed.

You may leave some things, but you also gain some things. You develop new relationships with all kinds of people of all different ages and they become your family.

**Compensation Statement #2** - One who sacrifices for Me will receive eternal life and rewards in the future. **10:30b**

One who sacrifices for the Lord will be paid back in eternity. Our biggest threat is that we have too much. Now God does say that He richly supplies us with all things to enjoy (I Tim. 6:17). But that is not the only reason He has given us things. He wants us to use what He has given us for Him.

**Compensation Statement #3** - Many who are first will be last. **10:31a**

Now Jesus does not say, “many who are first will be lost.” What He means here is that many who used their money on themselves first and lived a good plush life as a believer in this life will be last in the next life. Many who had much in this life will be last in the next life and won’t have much.

**Compensation Statement #4** - Many who are last will be first. **10:31b**

In fact, Jesus says in **verse 31** that many who are first will be last and many who are last will be first.

See, this will be an individual thing. So someone says, “I will give my portion just like the next guy.” Well the next guy may or may not be giving much at all, comparatively speaking. There will really be those who did make sacrifices for Jesus Christ and the Gospel and they did do without some things in order to make those sacrifices and they will be first in the next life.

Guys like the disciples who didn’t have much in this life would be first in the next life and have an abundance.

Now from this compensation package, we may make the following observations:

**(Observation #1)** - God will give more spiritually than what was sacrificed physically.

**(Observation #2)** - Persecution in this life will lead to rewards in the next life.

**(Observation #3)** - Faithful disciples will enjoy eternity in ways unfaithful people never will.

The greatest investment we will ever make is having Jesus Christ in our life and investing for Him.