

**Message #35**

**Mark 10:13-27**

We come now to the heart of the Gospel. Jesus has been establishing the fact that all people are sinners in one way or another. He has brought out that people who do not come to faith in Him will end up in hell.

Now young people may tend to think well that doesn't relate to us. We are young people and we really don't need to believe in Jesus Christ. In this text, Jesus specifically brings up two situations that featured those who were young.

Now the reason He brings this up is to show that:

**THOSE WHO WILL END UP IN MY KINGDOM WILL BE THOSE WHO, IN CHILD-LIKE FAITH, ADMITTED THEY WERE SINNERS AND BELIEVE ON CHRIST FOR SALVATION.**

Now there are two main episodes that occur that establish this thesis:

**EPISODE #1 – The episode with the young children. 10:13-16**

Jesus had now entered Judea (10:1). This was new territory and new people.

**Verse 13** says that “they” were bringing children to Jesus that He might touch them. We aren't sure who “they” are. We may assume it is the parents. The word “children” is the same word that was used earlier in the book to refer to a girl who was twelve-years-old (Mark 5:41-42). Luke uses a different Greek word and says some of them were babies (Luke 18:15).

So we may assume from this that parents were bringing their young children to Jesus in order that He might touch them. Now we are not sure why they wanted Him to touch them.

Usually when one wanted to touch Jesus, it was for the purpose of healing. This is especially true in Mark's gospel (1:31, 41; 5:41; 6:5, 56; 7:33; 8:23-25).

Matthew says they wanted Him to touch the children and pray over them (Matt. 19:13).

Since the text does not say specifically they wanted Him to touch and heal their children, it is possible they just wanted Him to touch their children and pray for them and bless them. These parents so believed in Jesus that they hauled their little children to Him just so He could touch them and pray for them.

Parents, you will never regret hauling your children to church. You will never regret having them dedicated to the Lord publicly in church. It shows that you believe that the church is a special place, the body of Jesus Christ.

According to **verse 13**, when the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. When the disciples saw all of these people bringing these little children to Jesus, they did not like it.

We know they struggled with pride (9:34). We know they struggled with thinking they had exclusive rights to Jesus (9:38). Children in this culture were not considered to be anything special. They did not have any social status and apparently these disciples were so spiritually insensitive that they rebuked the people for bringing their children to Jesus.

So Jesus decided to use this as an object lesson to teach some critical theological points. He makes three main statements:

When Jesus saw the disciples preventing the children from coming to Him, He was mad. He became “indignant.” He was very emotionally angry.

**Statement #1** - You disciples permit these children to come to Me. **10:14a**

In anger He said to His disciples, “you let these children come to me.”

**Statement #2** - You disciples make sure you do not hinder them from coming to me. **10:14b**

He followed that up with do not prevent them or hinder them because the Kingdom of God will be filled with people who have come to me in childlike faith.

There will be many seemingly insignificant people who will have simply come to Me and believed in Me who will be in this kingdom. In other words, the one who comes to Him in childlike faith will be in the Kingdom.

**Statement #3** - Whoever does not come to me like this child will not enter the Kingdom. **10:15**

Carefully observe that Jesus prefaces His remarks here with the adverb “truly.” This is dogmatic truth. This is not debatable.

Whoever does not come to Jesus Christ in childlike faith believing that He is the God/Savior/Messiah/King will not enter the Kingdom. He will not enter it at all. We already know where that person will go—everlasting, unquenchable fire.

After Jesus gave these people this rebuke (**v. 16**), He took the children one by one into His arms and began blessing them and laying His hands on them. Think of this moment, these children are safely in the arms of Jesus Christ.

**EPISODE #2 – The episode with the rich young ruler. 10:17-22**

Keep in mind that Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem to die for our sins (10:32-34) and all He asks is that people believe on Him to be saved. That was the problem. People would rather trust in themselves or their religion rather than Him. So Mark relays another story from His life. Now this story is just the opposite of a little child, who is totally dependent on Jesus Christ.

As Jesus continued on toward Judea, he was approached by a man. Matthew brings out the fact that he was young (Matt. 19:20-22). We don't know his age, but he obviously was not real old. Luke brings out that he was a ruler (Luke 18:18). So he was old enough to rule and what we learn here from **verse 22** is that he was rich. He was very rich. He owned a lot of property.

Now when this man knew that Jesus was there, he “ran” to Jesus and when he got to Him, he “knelt” before Him. This all appears to be good. He runs up to Jesus and He kneels before Him, but then notice what he says in **verse 17**: “good teacher what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

Now here is where things start to go awry. He probably heard about the fact that Jesus was talking about children being in the Kingdom so he wanted in on this. His question to Jesus indicates that he thought there was something he could do to earn this. Apparently something inside him told him he did not have it yet, but he thought he could earn it. After all, he is young and successful and rich.

**Verse 18** is critical. Jesus said why do you call Me “good” because only God alone is good. This is extremely important. Only God is good and the rest of us are human sinners who are not good in the sight of God. **Right here is the real problem with most people—they consider themselves to be good. They consider themselves to be even good enough to go to heaven.**

Now the irony here is that the rich man just identified Christ as a “teacher” but not as God. So when Jesus says, “Why do you call Me good,” He is making a key point, specifically I am God and I am the only good God who can save you from your sins. What this man should have been asking is “will you save me?” “Will you take away my sins?” This is his problem. Now this man considered eternal life to be an inheritance that he himself could earn. Thought he could do something to be saved and earn everlasting life.

Well since this man asked Jesus what he had to do to inherit eternal life, Jesus, who he thinks is a good teacher, said well if you want eternal life as an inheritance you have to obey the law; every bit of it. In other words, **you would have to obey every commandment in the Word of God perfectly according to God's standards, not your standards.**

You would have to obey all the commandments and actually be as “good” as God. That is what you would have to do to earn everlasting life.

What Jesus is actually doing here is refuting the idea that you can do something to inherit everlasting life.

**This is the very reason He was here on earth because we cannot do anything to earn it. So to play along Jesus starts naming some of the commandments in verse 19:**

- 1) You shall not murder.
- 2) You shall not commit adultery.
- 3) You shall not steal.
- 4) You shall not bear false witness.
- 5) You shall not defraud anyone.
- 6) You shall honor your Father and Mother.

When Jesus got done with this little list, the young man said in **verse 20**, well teacher I have kept all these things from my youth up.

At age 12 a Jewish young man went through what is called Bar Mitzvah. This is the age in which a Jewish young man becomes a son of the covenant and responsible to the O.T. law. This man really believed that ever since this, he had obeyed the law completely.

**This man truly believed that he had kept all of the O.T. law perfectly. If any could have kept the O.T. law perfectly, Jesus Christ would not be here on earth.**

**Verse 21** says Jesus looked at him and felt a love for him and He said you have come up just a little bit short in your assessment of yourself. You have missed one little commandment you would have to keep in order to earn heaven. He says I'll lay it out for you:

- 1) Go
- 2) Sell everything you possess
- 3) Give to the poor
- 4) Come follow Me

You will have your inheritance or treasure in heaven. Now Jesus is getting at the heart of the problem. More than likely he trusted in his wealth to save him and viewed it as a great sign of God's blessings. He was more in love with his possessions than he was the kingdom of heaven.

**Verse 22** says that when the young man heard that, he was stunned. He went away grieving because he owned many things and was not willing to do that. He was not willing to make that kind of commitment to Jesus Christ.

What commandment was he guilty of breaking? The commandment of idolatry.

In **verses 23-24**, Jesus looked at His disciples and said it is very difficult for one who is wealthy to believe in Me and very few rich people will enter the kingdom.

Notice in **verse 24**, He identifies His own disciples as “children.” These guys were immature in their faith. They were not solid. They did not get it at all.

The disciples were completely amazed at this so Jesus said, “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

Now some have tried to water this down by saying that there was a side gate in a city called the “eye of the needle” which was almost impossible to get a camel through. I think Jesus is talking about a real sewing needle.

What He is saying is that it is impossible for a man to do anything to inherit heaven.

Now it is impossible for a camel to go through an eye of a needle, just as it is impossible for one to inherit heaven by trying to keep the law.

Well the disciples are totally perplexed so in exasperation in **verse 26** they said well “Then who can be saved?”

If that guy can’t be saved as good a man as he was, then who can?

Now do not miss Christ’s answer in **verse 27**, no human can be saved by his works, it is impossible; but one may be saved by God’s grace. Salvation is totally God’s work (Eph. 2:8-9).

It is impossible to be saved by human merit or human achievement. Salvation is an impossibility for a sinful man to achieve or earn. It is only possible with God.

One cannot be saved by his own efforts; one must be saved by a provision of God.

See what the rich man should have done is say to Jesus, can you save me? Will you save me?