

## A Study of Mark – Lesson 30

### Mark 10:17-34 The Rich and the Kingdom of God

**10** <sup>17</sup> 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?”

<sup>18</sup> “Why do you call me good?” / Jesus answered. / “No one is good—except God alone. / <sup>19</sup> You know the commandments: / ‘You shall not murder, / you shall not commit adultery, / you shall not steal, / you shall not give false testimony, / you shall not defraud, / honor your father and mother.’”

<sup>20</sup> “Teacher,” / he declared, / “all these I have kept / since I was a boy.” /

<sup>21</sup> 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.”

<sup>22</sup> At this the man’s face fell. / He went away sad, / because he had great wealth.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus looked around / and said to his disciples, / “How hard it is for the rich / to enter the kingdom of God!”

<sup>24</sup> The disciples were amazed at his words. / But Jesus said again, / “Children, / how hard it is / to enter the kingdom of God! /

<sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel / to go through the eye of a needle / than for someone who is rich / to enter the kingdom of God.”



<sup>26</sup> The disciples were even more amazed, / and said to each other, / “Who then / can be saved?”

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<sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them / and said, / “With man / this is impossible, / but not with God; / all things are possible with God.”

<sup>28</sup> Then Peter spoke up, / “We have left everything to follow you!” /

<sup>29</sup> “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 / <sup>30</sup> 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. / <sup>31</sup> But many who are first / will be last, / and the last first.”

<sup>32</sup> They were on their way up to Jerusalem, / with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, / while those / who followed / were afraid. / Again / he took the Twelve aside / and told them what was going to happen to him. / <sup>33</sup> “We are going up to Jerusalem,” / he said, / “and the Son of Man / will be delivered over / to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. / They will condemn him to death / and will hand him over to the Gentiles, / <sup>34</sup> who will mock him / and spit on him, / flog him / and kill him. / Three days later / he will rise.”

## ***Vocabulary***

1. **Defraud:** Cheat someone.
2. **Testimony:** Statement of truth. Witness.
3. **Astonished:** Surprised. Dumbfounded. Incredulous.
4. **To be delivered over:** Given to the Romans in an arrest.
5. **Condemn:** Convict and sentence.
6. **To mock:** to treat someone with scorn.
7. **To flog:** Physically beat somebody very hard.

## Questions

1. What question did the eager young man ask Jesus?
2. Jesus did not want to be flattered. Why did he correct the man who called him *good*? Who is good?
3. The commandments, except for the one about honoring parents, are all passive negative. How was this ruler active with his riches? Did the ruler consider himself one who obeyed rules?
4. Was this man generous with his riches? Had he helped the poor before he fell on his knees before Jesus?
5. What do you think it means, “You will have treasure in heaven?”
6. Why did the man go away sad?
7. Why is it so hard for a rich man to enter heaven? What temptations would a rich man face? Can money buy everything?
8. The Jews thought that rich people were especially blessed by God. Did Jesus teach that?
9. Verse 25 has become one of the proverbs or sayings for Christians. Does it mean God hates riches?
10. Who decides who will be saved? Can you work your way to heaven?
11. Peter begins to compare himself to the ruler. He and the disciples have left everything. Does Jesus say they will be persecuted?
12. Eternal life is mentioned many times in the book of John but only in this passage in Mark. V. 17 and 30. Does Jesus believe in eternal life?

## Notes

1. A look at the action verbs tells what a powerful story this is. It is clear the man came in the passion of a great moment. Jesus held his attention by some great fascination. Jesus had to make

this man stop and think. Emotion is not enough to follow Jesus. It takes *discipline* and *will* to count the cost and accept reality.

2. Jesus wanted the man to look to God, not to a man. He also laid down a great principle, that respectability and riches are not enough. A person must be willing to put God first, not material possessions. Are we willing to pay the price to do that?
3. Popular Jewish morality was simple for it believed that prosperity was a sign of a good man. If he was rich, God had blessed him greatly.
4. The disciples were really surprised as they all watched the man walk away. They also believed that the more prosperous a man was, the more likely he would enter into the Kingdom of God.
5. Jesus clearly saw the dangers of many possessions and riches. He knew riches fix a man into thoughts of this world. It also makes a rich man think in terms of everything having its price and not knowing the true value.
6. Prosperity can make a man arrogant, proud, self-satisfied and worldly. It takes a really mature and big man to stand worthy of his wealth. A man will be judged by how he got his wealth and how he uses it. The man who trusts in himself and his possessions is lost to God.
7. Peter began talking without thinking. He quickly compared himself with the wealthy young man who walked away. Jesus answered Peter saying he would face both rewards and persecutions. He also spoke of eternal life. He does not do that so much in the Gospel of Mark as he does in the Gospel of John.
8. Jesus shows his utter honesty to Peter and the disciples. He never bribed men to join him and he never promised prosperity in this earthly world. He talked about the blessings of eternity.
9. As they continued walking, Jesus went on ahead of them. He was alone. They were walking to Jerusalem and Jesus again warns them of what will happen to him. The disciples knew that Jesus was the Messiah and they knew that he was going to die. Yet they stayed with him even though they were afraid.