

**Title:** The King Isn't Seeker-Friendly

**Passage:** Mark 10:17-31

### **Context of Passage:**

A few months before Jesus' crucifixion

- The weight of coming event was ever before Him as He spoke and ministered.
- "And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him..."

**Passage:** Mark 10:17-31

And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "*Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.*" And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "*You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.*" Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "*Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.*" And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "*With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.*" Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." 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 lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.*"

### **Introduction**

Jesus is not seeker-friendly - he is more than that.

### **Exposition**

#### **I. Jesus' heart towards sinners on earth (v.17-22)**

Mark 10:17-22

And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "*Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.*" And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "*You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.*" Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

*a man ran up and knelt before him*

- disgraceful, humble action (like reckless abandon)
- Unique, especially someone who has been moral under the law

- Someone who was rich and moral yet knew he did not have eternal life

Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?

- question by man

*And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good?"*

- Jesus called good
- Jesus does not correct the man
- But was evaluating the man's heart - the why (does the man truly see Jesus as God?)

*No one is good except God alone.*

- all other than God is bad

Romans 3:10-12

"None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

- through the Law comes knowledge of sin
- No one truly seeks the true God.

*You know the commandments: Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother."*

- Jesus raises the law but the man doesn't realize he is a sinner.

*And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth."*

- referred to time since bar mitzvah (son of commandment) - age 13
- The man pleads "not guilty"

*And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him,*

- Jesus loved him = agape (unconditional love)
- Love = prompts the truth (you lack...you do not have but need...)

Mark 12:30

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

- Heart: will and affections
- Soul: life and existence
- Might: adverb that describes a thing (really, very, much)
  - All possible effort

*"You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."*

- Jesus pointed to his heart

Exodus 20:17

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

- our flesh condemns us as we sin from within.

*Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.*

- the man realized his sin and went away sorrowful.

Question: Do you love God more than anything?

- Why? Because God loves you!

Romans 5:8

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

## **II. Salvation is impossible by man. (v. 23-27)**

Mark 10:23-27

And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."

*And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"*

- Jesus doesn't chase down the man who turned away but instead spoke truth about sin

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

*But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."*

- Jesus reminds of the truth: salvation is impossible (camel to go through the eye of a needle)

*And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?"*

- this is where Jesus wanted his disciples to get at
- Spiritually broke = realization of helplessness of own effort

*Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."*

- salvation is impossible through man. Salvation is only through Jesus
- The Gospel is not about self-help and self-empowerment as we could never save ourselves by being external good works.

### John 3:1-3

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

- The responsibility of faith is by God alone. We do not create faith. God brings about spiritual birth.

### John 6:44

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

### Romans 5:6-11

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

- God loves you deeply!

## **III. Eternal life**

### Mark 10:28-31

Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." 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 lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

- you gain everything through the Gospel.
- Jesus is not seeker-friendly but a sinner-loving King.

### Ephesians 1:7-9

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ