

4GLENSTONE CHAPEL3
Community Group Bible Study Guide

Passage: Mark 10:17-31

For use Mar. 2-7, 2008

QUESTIONS TO USE IN GROUP
OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY

LAUNCHING

1. Imagine for moment that your house is burning down and you have only a few minutes to rescue some favorite possessions (assume that firefighters have saved your family and pets). If you only could take one of the following, which would it be? [Mark X.] What would be your second choice? [Mark a.] Please share with the group.

___ (a) My entire electronic entertainment center.

___ (b) My collection of : _____ .

___ (c) A family heirloom: _____ .

___ (d) My set of tools.

___ (e) A vehicle (motorcycle, pick-up, etc.).

___ (f) My golf clubs (tennis rackets, bowling ball, etc.).

___ (g) My new kitchen appliances.

___ (h) Something else: _____ .

2. If you had enough money so that you never had to ask the price of anything (a la the Kennedy clan), what might you buy with it? Why?

3. What did you do with your first honest-to-goodness paycheck from a "real job"? If you can't remember, take a guess (and no one in the group will know anyhow!).

UNDERSTANDING Mark 10:17-31

1. Read the passage aloud. Perhaps assign "parts" to Jesus [oldest in the group], the young man [youngest in the group], Peter [most talkative person in the group] and narrator [the most quiet one in the group].

2. How did various persons respond to the conversation - and why?

3. What seems to have been going through the young man's mind as he approaches Jesus? If you had interviewed him at that moment, what would he say about Jesus?

4. What kinds of hidden sins might have been lurking in the young man's life, of which he was unaware or denying? 8

5. 8 Why did Jesus bracket people (in verses 29-30) between "home" and "fields"?

6. How does verse 31 relate to the whole encounter as recorded by Mark?

MUSING on Mark 10:17-31

1. In light of this passage, what ought the Christian believer's attitude to be toward material wealth and possessions? How can you describe it without using clichéd pious platitudes? What's one victory you have had in this area?
2. What are some of the "impossibilities" facing you at this time? To what extent are you willing to declare your faith in what Jesus said, "All things are possible with God?" [Did Jesus really mean "all," e.g., swim across the Atlantic Ocean, make a million dollars next year?]
3. If you encountered Jesus walking in a mall or at sports event, what deep, heart-felt issue(s) might you want to discuss with him

FURTHER MUSING (on your own)

o How can this narrative enrich our concept of "worship"? Ponder Romans 12:1, "Therefore I urge you, brothers [and sisters], in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God -this is your spiritual act of worship." [NIV]

FOR PERSONAL PREPARATION

Passage: Mark 10:17-31

1. If you think of the great variety of people who had encounters with Jesus during his years on earth, it is simply overwhelming. Women, men, old, young, rich, poor, sick, well, believers, faithless. . . . Watch what happens as each week brings various ones to the fore.

2. What title would you give this "encounter with Jesus"? Also consult parallel passages in Matthew and Luke.

3. Who's who?

o A rich young ruler. Anonymous; an opportunist; "a person of quality." He was a congregational leader in a local synagogue, even at his age. He illustrates ". . . those who fail to acknowledge their own inability to gain eternal life and to receive it as God's gift." He was not one of the Sadducees, who did not believe in the resurrection.

o Jesus. Called "good" (vs. 18) or "God" (see vs. 18 also); "teacher" (vs. 20).
o Disciples. Possibly the Twelve, perhaps others, but definitely Peter (vs. 28), always the spokesman for the Twelve. Jesus called them "children" (vs. 24), because Verse 22, "He went away sad." He failed the test; "they should be taught by Him..."

4. Verse 17.

_ The self-righteous think to inherit eternal life through good works. Cf. Rom.2:7;3:10-19; 5:21; 6:23.

_ The fact that the man RAN to Jesus is ". . . an indication of his humility."

_ He came eagerly, earnestly. He did not care if the disciples listened in.

_ His kneeling shows ". . . the great . . . veneration he had for Jesus."

5. Verse 18. "If you believe me to simply be a human being, why do you call me 'good'?"

" Jews did not use the term, "Good Teacher," to address a Rabbi.

" Jesus challenged the man's faulty perception of Who He was. Jesus was making a "veiled claim" to His deity here. 8

" 86. Verse 19. the commandments. The "Second Table" of the Decalogue. (Ex. 31:18; 32:19; 34:1; Rom. 7:7,8; 13:9, 1 Tim. 1:9-10)

" The commands have to do with duties to neighbors.

" "Do not defraud" is probably a representation of the 10th Commandment, instead of coveting. "It is a rule for justice not to advance or enrich ourselves by doing wrong or injury to any other."

7. Verse 20. ;

" Since he was a boy_." The age of 12, "when he assumed personal responsibility for keeping the Law. . . ."

" He sincerely believed he had kept the commands. Often people think they are better than they really are.

8. Verse 21 Only lacking one thing.

" This was a test of his sincerity.

" Jesus exposed to all gathered there, including the young man, that wealth was his god (cf. vs. 22).

" "Follow me," to the cross, if need be. "Cross" = denotes any severe affliction or trial.

" Selling all was a particular form of self-denial, "but it is not a requirement for all prospective disciples."

9. Verse 22. How sad! Cf. Matt. 6:24.

" He was "sorry that he could not be a follower of Christ upon any easier terms than leaving all. . . ."

:"

" Christ let him go. "Christ will keep no man against his will. . . ."

10. Verse 23, the rich entering the kingdom? See also Luke 16:19-25; Ez. 28:4, 5, 8.

" "The rich man must be disentangled from his riches, and then there is some hope of him. . . ."

" A camel, largest animal at that time in Judea, compared with a sewing needle, the smallest opening. "A humorous comparison. . . ."

11. Verse 23. The deceitfulness of riches, Matt. 13:22.

12. Verse 24. "Astonished." "Amazed, i.e., as Jews knowing that temporal prosperity was, to the Jew as such, a token of divine favor."

13. Verse 25. "A rich man cannot get to heaven unless he be willing to part with the burden of his worldly wealth. . . ."

14. Verse 26. "Astonished" disciples. ["surprised"] 8
" What Jesus taught was out of step with the teachings of the Jewish rabbis, who usually pointed to Old Testament promises of material blessing for the godly.
" "What people cannot effect, God can and does by His grace (cf. Eph. 2:8-10)."

15. Verse 27.
o "Rich people cannot by their own skill or resolution get over these difficulties, but the grace of God can do it. . . ."

15. Verse 28. "We have left all." Peter was asking what reward they would get for having "left all."

16. Verses 29-30. "A hundred times as much."
o "The items enumerated here may be taken literally to refer to such things as the many homes which will be opened to God's servants and the many new relationships in the household of God. Or they may be taken as figuratively describing the manifold spiritual blessings which the Lord heaps upon those who follow Him sacrificially."

Feedback, please! Tell Dan at: NananDrDan@aol.com