A BETTER WORD

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

A Study Through the Life of King Jesus | with Pastor Nick Gatzke

Your Possessions and the Kingdom

◆ *Mark 10:17–31*

THE BIG IDEA

When Jesus is truly worth more to you than everything else, you're willing to give up anything to follow him.

SERMON SUMMARY

A wealthy, young man ran up to Jesus, knelt before him, and claimed he had kept the commandments since his youth, but Jesus loved him and named the one thing standing in the way: "Go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and come, follow me." He had the right question and a moral life, but he walked away sorrowful, because he had great possessions. Jesus then told his stunned disciples how hard it is for rich people to enter the kingdom, because wealth tempts us toward self-sufficiency instead of the dependence the kingdom requires.

DIGGING DEEPER

OBSERVATION

1. The man knelt before Jesus, called him "good," and recounted keeping the law since his youth. What do his posture, address, and answer reveal about how highly the young man seemed to value Jesus?

INTERPRETATION

2. Jesus listed only the second half of the Ten Commandments about dealing with other people, not the first four, about loving God. What does the man's confident answer expose about the commandments he was actually failing to keep?

3. In verse 21, Jesus looked at the man and loved him before giving the hard command to sell everything. What does that order tell you about the relationship between Jesus' love and his willingness to confront us?

THEOLOGICAL CONNECTION

4. Pastor Nick connected this to the story just before it: children welcomed through dependence, a rich man held back by self-sufficiency. How does wealth tempt a person toward self-sufficiency in ways that poverty doesn't?

5. Philippians 3:7–8 shows Paul counting his own credentials as rubbish for the sake of knowing Christ. What is the modern equivalent of the rich man's possessions in your life, and are you willing to name it and give it up before Jesus asks?

LIVING IT OUT

HEART CHECK

This passage isn't a universal command to sell everything you own; it's a spotlight on whatever competing value stands between you and Christ: money, family, reputation, comfort, or tradition. If Jesus, looking at you in love, named the thing you'd struggle most to hand over, what would it be?

ACTION STEPS

— Name that one thing specifically, and write it down instead of letting it stay vague.

— Take concrete steps that put Christ's authority over it rather than your control of it: a gift, a confession, a changed habit, or an honest conversation. If you are still on the fence about letting it go, then tell God honestly about your struggle and give him permission to change your heart.

— Tell someone you trust what it is, so it stops being a private negotiation between you and God alone.

"SO WHAT?" CHALLENGE

> ***Don't walk away sorrowful like the rich man did. Open your hand before Jesus, and let him be worth more than what you're holding.***

REFLECTION & PRAYER

KEY VERSE — TO MEMORIZE

> *"With man it is impossible, but not with God, for all things are possible with God."*
>
> **— Mark 10:27**

PRAYER PROMPT

Thank Jesus that he loves you enough to name what you're holding onto, and ask him for the grace to loosen your grip on whatever competes with him for first place in your heart.

YOUR PRAYER