

Discussion Notes

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Mark 10.17-31

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Moving out the story of Jesus and the little children (Mark 10.13-16) Mark shares us a story that re-iterates the need for human dependence on Jesus as our God amongst us. Only like little children can we truly “enter the kingdom of heaven”, and this will cost us our previous manners of self-righteousness and self-justification.

10.17-18

- The man is drawn to Jesus (runs to him and falls on his knees) which again shows us the universal compulsion to the God-man among us.
- He comes to Jesus to find an answer to his question about eternal life.
- Jesus ties the man’s label for him as “good” with his question about eternal life. Only God is good and only God can answer questions about eternal life.

10.19-21

- This young man has done everything well religiously and is also rich. His culture would consider him blessed by God in this regard.
- The young man honestly desires to serve God and have eternal life, hence his hard-earned position in life.
- He asks if there us more to day.
- Jesus feels genuine love for him, as he does for us all.

10.22

- The man goes away grieved at Jesus call to him.
- Having and doing are not qualifiers for finding eternal life.

10.23-25

- This isn’t just about money, it’s about what the money represents. Jesus is making a point.
- The “camel-like” rich are those who have chosen not to become the least and put all their trust in Jesus. They choose to depend on something other than him, thus forgetting the first commandment.
- This man must be like the little children in the previous story, but he chooses to turn away.

10.26-27

- We cannot save ourselves. It is not possible to follow enough rules. The way to salvation doesn’t emerge from our doing but from Jesus’ doing.

10.28-30

- Giving all to Jesus will be worth it, but also hard.
- Philippians 4.16

- Persecution measures our resolve, and Jesus leads us through it.

10.31

- Like the end of the story about the children, this statement is an inversion of importance in the kingdom of heaven.

Discussion Notes

- Did you learn anything new about this story from this teaching?
- Do you relate at all the young man in the story? How so?
- Why did Jesus tell the man to sell everything and follow him?
- What have you had to abandon in order to fully trust Jesus? What have you had to stop hoping in so that you can fully put your hope in Jesus?