

Mark 10:17-22

Jesus Loves the Religious Moralist

Today we are continuing our series “Who does Jesus love?”

A) Looking at some vignettes in the life of Jesus –

B) His interaction with various people in the gospel narratives

C) We have seen some happy endings – Man lame for 38 yrs walks

- 1) A couple’s wedding celebration is saved
- 2) A notorious crook and politician gets radically saved.

D) Unfortunately today – our story doesn’t have a happy ending

- 1) Sad ending – but one that has great implications for us today

Mark 10:17

17 Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”

18 So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. 19 You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Do not defraud,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ ”

20 And he answered and said to Him, “Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.”

21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”

22 But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. **Pray**

Let’s begin by considering The Man:

A) Matthew in his gospel account of this story tells us the man was a young man

B) Mark tells us in V.22 that he had great possessions – Matthew adds he was a man of great wealth.

C) And in Luke’s account – he tells us that he was a Ruler

D) Given the name in many Bibles – **the Rich Young Ruler.**

We might say today -This guy is the whole package:

A) A man of Power, prestige, position – he is successful, capable – man of faith.

B) Most dads excited about this dude – comes to take out his daughter

C) Rolls up to the house in his brand new sports car.

D) He is well dressed – well mannered – respectful

E) I think a lot of dads would be excited of the prospects – if he showed up to date your daughter

Reminded of the story of a young woman in her mid 20’s – parents were pestering her about marriage. – When Married?

A) She hadn’t been dating anyone for a while – but she met this young man she really liked – Handsome, Smart, good guy and funny.

B) After a few dates that went well She decided to bring him home for dinner to meet her parents.

1) Her mother instantly liked the guy – She thought he was great. – But her father didn’t really like him.

C) No real reason – just wasn’t feeling it.....{Truth be told - Dad’s can be so tough – our little girl

1) Well respecting her father’s opinion and wanting his approval – she decided to break it off

After a few months she met another guy – She actually liked better than the first guy.

A) He was everything the first guy was – **also Athletic**

B) She like that because she was athletic

1) and she was sure her father would like that too since he was a **former college football player.**

C) But the Same thing happened – Mother thought the guy was great but her dad didn’t like the guy.

1) She broke it off

D) This happened a few more times over the course of that year.

1) Each time the same result: Mom thought the guy was great/ but her father didn't like the guy. She broke it off.

Then one day she met a guy who looked a lot like her dad did when he was young. He had the same personality as her dad – same mannerisms.

A) He was in almost every way – a younger version of her Dad.

B) So after a few dates she brought this guy home to meet her parents and you guessed it – Dad instantly fell in love with the guy.

1) He thought the guy was AWESOME

C) The problem was – Her mother didn't like the guy at all! ☺

D) Well that would not have been the case with this guy in our story – Both Parents would have LOVED him!

1) Whole package – real deal –

Consider The Approach:

A) Here we see another man of prestige who is running to meet with Jesus

B) Like I mentioned last week – men in that culture, especially men of power and position didn't run

1) Picture a guy in a business suit running – you don't see that even today.

C) Running speaks to the urgency on this man's heart 1) he has a question to ask Jesus that has been troubling him for a while.

Not only is he running but he comes and kneels before Jesus –

A) Sign of Humility on his part and respect for Jesus

B) Again this would be unusual – Jesus is not a part of the official religious hierarchy –

1) in fact NONE of them like him – plotting to kill him.

C) Jesus is this itinerate rabbi – who looks normal – doesn't dress in all the religious garb

1) Watching your dignified boss or dad ...hippie

The Question: “Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”

A) Eternal life – quality and quantity of life

B) Lesson: - The things that our culture says are important things to pursue and acquire will not bring lasting satisfaction

C) He has everything but he knows that something is missing!

But notice the premise of his question: What shall I do?

A) His question is the question asked of every religious person

B) Of every cult, & every non-believer who refuses the salvation God offers through Jesus

C) What shall I do? I know I know I need to do something?

“The original language indicates that he expected Jesus to prescribe some great deed he could do which would settle things with God once and for all. From his point of view he certainly had the ability and will to do whatever would be required, just as he always did.” R. Kent Hughes

D) We might call him a can do kind of guy. – What do I need to do!

Notice that he addresses Jesus as good teacher:

A) This is also interesting because in the original language the word he uses for good Agathos

B) It means intrinsically good, inherently good in quality.

1) It is a word that carries the idea of that which is profitable, useful, benefiting others, benevolent.

C) Agathos is used in the NT primarily of spiritual and moral excellence **in the highest form!**

I mention that because I think it helps us understand what Jesus is saying in his response.

A) Jesus asked the question – why do you call me good in that way? **Only God is that good!**

B) Jesus was in essence saying -When you call me good, do you really know what you're saying?

C) If I am good in the ultimate sense, it's because I am not merely a good person,

1) it's because I am God in human flesh."

D) Jesus was giving a hint – do you know who you are talking to?

Jesus is going to proceed to give instruction followed by a word of confrontation

A) This is really interesting how Jesus deals with this man

B) The instruction: You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'

C) Pay attention to this: Jesus doesn't mention the first 4 commandments –

1) that would have pinpointed the man's problem

D) The first 4 commandments

- You shall have no other Gods before me
- You shall not make for yourselves an idol
- You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God
- Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy

The first 4 commandments are all about our relationship with God –

A) No other God's before Him – God is first in our lives

B) No idols – Honor the Lord's name – Honor the Lord's day!

C) Those commandments are all about the heart – deal with heart issues

1) We are going to see that this man's problem was a heart problem –

D) There were other things that had his heart – other than God

But Jesus is going to bring him there slowly

A) What Jesus does is he focused on commandments 5-10 – which all deal with his relationships w/ others

B) How he treated others – and notice how this young man answered - 20 And he answered and

said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth."

C) Matthew adds in his gospel he then asked – what am I still lacking!

I don't believe this guy is blowing smoke or he was like some self-righteous prideful people we run into.

A) Notice what it says in v.21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him,

B) Jesus knows that he is sincere. – He truly has been trying to be a good person – do the right things.

C) He is a good person – he is a religious person – he lives each day trying to treat others the right way.

Story of some in this room/ Online –

A) You are a good person – you are religious – you might even say – you love God!

B) But you know that there is still something missing – lacking – you sense it – you feel like – 1) VOID IN YOUR HEART

Question: How many of you were in the Catholic religion before becoming a Christian?

A) Not surprised – most Catholic people have a genuine love for God

B) Problem is they don't know the Bible – many C churches don't teach it

C) So they have religion but not relationship

D) They grow up thinking being right with God is about being a good person – religious person

E) God wants a relationship with us – that only comes through faith in Jesus – Cross / rez

1) Religion says – Do.....

2) Jesus says Done!!!

Jesus is about to invite this Rich young ruler into A relationship

A) But before he does he is going to confront this young man

B) In doing so - Jesus is going to reveal what really has this young man's heart

Lesson: True love confronts

21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “{Here is the confrontation One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; {Here is the invitation and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”

So the confrontation Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven;

A) Why does Jesus say this to the man? Is Jesus against Wealth?

B) No – Many of the great men that God lays before us in Scripture were Wealthy.

1) Abraham, David, Job - Many of the great kings – Wealthy.

C) Jesus is not against wealth

The Bible doesn't say that Money is the root of all evil – but that the Love of money is the root of all evil

A) That was the Problem here: - This Young man loved his stuff.

B) Jesus loves this young man so much that he is going to PINPOINT the thing that has his heart!

C) Jesus does that in our lives as well because he loves you so much he will pinpoint –

1) the things that have our hearts!

D) The things that are running the risk of taking the place of God in our lives.

This to me is significant – Jesus is not satisfied that this guy is a good guy.

A) He is not satisfied that he has religion –

B) I think that is something we need to take note of

1) Jesus is not satisfied that you are a good person –

God is not satisfied with our goodness

C) Our righteousness is like filthy rags in the site of a holy God! –

D) The fact of the matter is no matter how good we were – still sinners

1) All sinned fallen short... of God

JESUS STILL HAD TO DIE! – None good enough – no not one!

A) Your sin needs to be dealt with and Jesus dealt with it on the cross

B) Being religious is not enough – you need to have a relationship with God that only comes through faith in Jesus – cross – Resurrection

A word to parents here: Speak with All due respect -

A) I meet and talk to many parents who's kids are not really walking with Jesus – not going to church

B) the parents will say- but they are good kids – Just off a little right now! –

C) I get that – we want to hope the best for our kids – But we can live in denial

D) I know it is hard – kids are adults and they are not really walking with Jesus – not in church –

1) can't say anything – don't listen

But let me bring this word of caution –

A) Don't be content that they are good kids. – pray for them – plead for them

B) Don't be content – or satisfied that they are morally good.

C) Don't be content that they got their degree or that they have a good job

1) Be concerned about their eternity.

Years ago we had a memorial service for the son of Chris and Julie Hedrick – moved to Oregon

A) They were not sure where their son was at spiritually

B) HE knew the truth but wasn't walking/ up & down spiritually

C) Never forget this – sanctuary was packed – Julie got up and shared – I don't know where my son is at today.

1)I am hoping he is in heaven – but no certainty because he wasn't really walking with Jesus

D)SHE Issued a warning to all his friends – time is short – no one knows when their day comes –

1)Are you ready to stand before God?

Good question: Are you ready to stand before God.

A)**Tomorrow is promised to NO MAN** – car accident today – are you right with God?

B)Invents in Ukraine – are a **BIG TIME** indication last days – Rapture could happen at any moment

C)**Taken or left behind?**

1))Kids taken or left behind? –

D)We need to pray for our kids – plead with Jesus for our kids backslidden

1)Lord would wake them up – do whatever it takes

E)To see our kids on fire for Jesus! – Pray for that!

Listen Jesus was not content with this guy's morality – his religiosity – Jesus was concerned for his soul.

A)Same is true for you today – you might be a morally good person – you might be a religious person

B)Jesus is concerned for you soul – your eternity –

C)There will be a lot of good people and religious people in HELL

1)They never embraced Jesus – **who said – I am the way.....Me!**

D)IF you have not embraced Jesus today

1)Opportunity before we are done here today – Embrace Jesus

E)Not sure where you would end up today – I will give you an opportunity in a few minutes

Jesus confronts the problem – and then gives THIS invitation = and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”

A)Take up the cross –

B)We tend to look at this as Christians from the other side of Calvary – after the crucifixion of Jesus

1)We see it as the need to be willing to die to self in order to live for Jesus

C)And that is true- but in some ways we over simplify this.

When Jesus made this statement to this man – no one knew what Jesus was about to do.-

A)That He would end up on a cross.

B)However this statement would make perfect sense to them –

1)because To the people of Jesus' day the **cross** was a very concrete and vivid reality.

C)It was the instrument of execution reserved for Rome's worst enemies.

D)The Romans crucified their victims in public, along highways,

1)as a gruesome reminder of what happened to those who defied Caesar's imperial authority.

Estimates suggest that as many as 30,000 Jews were crucified during Jesus' lifetime.

A)So when Jesus told this man to take up the cross

B)this man and everyone else listening would have understood what Jesus was saying:

1)Jesus was calling this man to a new lifestyle rather than seeking prosperity and ease,

C)To follow Christ He must be willing to endure persecution, rejection, hardship

1)and even potential martyrdom for the sake of following Jesus

Many people today want a “no-cost” discipleship, but Christ offers no such option.

A)**Christ does not call people to Himself to make their lives easy and prosperous, but to make them holy and productive.**

B)This man was probably well respected and looked up to in the Jewish religious community –

1)Jesus was asking him to be willing to become an outcast with him.

C)Remember the term Seeker Sensitive?

If you have been around the church for a while you probably remember phrase popular in the 1990's

A) And in some places is still be practiced today – It was called the seeker sensitive movement

B) Idea was we need to make following Jesus more appealing to the seeker as possible –

1) in order to do that - we are not going to talk about sin

C) Not going to talk about the cross or about blood – anything that might confuse or offend the seeker.

1) Jesus did not practice that strategy

He is confrontational

A) He is going to challenge the very things that will hinder us from giving ourselves fully to God.

Tim Keller says, “If your God never disagrees with you, you might be worshiping an idealized version of yourself.” Timothy Keller

B) God is confrontive because true love confronts –

C) God knows what is best for us and wants what is best for us and

1) Consequently he will confront what gets in the way of that.

D) That is what Jesus is doing here – He is inviting this man to take up the cross –

1) He is inviting him to count the cost of following Jesus

Follow me? – This is an invitation into relationship

A) The idea is not that of following behind another, but that of accompanying the other person,

B) taking the same road that he takes and fellowshiping with him along that road.

C) Walk with me – an invitation to Fellowship relationship

1) That is what Jesus was most interested in –

D) But Jesus knew that in order for this man to truly follow him – there would be a cost – YOUR COST?

Notice the promise - and you will have treasure in heaven;

A) This is an amazing promise.

B) Obedience in the temporal now on earth, will yield fruit in our eternal future in Heaven.

C) Jim Elliot – **He is not fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.**

D) Later is longer – eternity is better – this is the introduction – the prologue

William Gladstone who served as the British Prime Minister 4 times during the latter half of the 19th Century.

A) Gladstone was a committed Christian

B) One day Gladstone was approached by an admiring college student -

Gladstone asked. “What do you hope to do when you graduate from college?”

The young man replied, **“I hope to attend law school, sir, just as you did.”**- Gladstone replied, **Noble goal – then what?**

“I hope to practice law and make a good name for myself defending the poor and the outcasts of society, just as you did.” Gladstone. replied

“That’s a **noble purpose,**” “Then what?”

“Well, sir, I hope one day to stand for Parliament and be- come a servant of the people, even as you did.” “That too is a **noble hope.**” “Then what?”

“I would hope to be able to serve in the Parliament with great distinction, evidencing integrity and a concern for justice — even as you did.”

Gladstone asked “Then what?”

“I would hope to serve the government as Prime Minister with the same vigor, dedication, vision, and integrity as you did.”

Gladstone. Asked – then what?”

“I would hope to retire with honors and write my memoirs — even as you are presently doing — so that others could learn from my mistakes and triumphs.”

“Gladstone, said - All of that is very noble,” but then what?”

The young man thought for a moment. “Well, sir, I suppose I will then die.”

Gladstone said, “That’s correct,” “And then what?”

The young man looked puzzled. “Well, sir,” “I’ve never given that any thought.”

A) This was Gladstone’s response: “Young man,” “the only advice I have for you is for you to go home, **read your Bible, and think about eternity.**”

B) Think about eternity – right now

C) **V.22 tells us this man went away sad – he had a great deal of possessions**

D) That is how this man’s story ended – we never find out if he ever came back to that place –

1) if he became a follower of Jesus

E) Not sure how his story ended – but you can be sure how your story ends today.