

Mark 10:17-31 Am I Good Enough?

One of the craziest stories in all of the Bible takes place in Babylon around the 6th century BC

A) A rich young king by the name of Belshazzar is partying it up with his friends, and in the midst of the party – **he is mocking the God of Israel and that is when it happens**

B) A large hand appears out of no where and starts to write on the wall. –

1) It is the hand of God – **guess that would make God the first tagger right -**

C) Ever wonder where that saying the handwriting on the wall originated – right there in Daniel - -

God writes – Babylonian language – Mene, Mene, Tekel Upharsan

A) Here is what that means: **“You have been weighed in the Balances and found lacking!”**

B) I don't think that came as a surprise to anyone who knew Belshazzar because – he was not a good guy

1) Arrogant, ruthless, used his power to manipulate people.

C) No surprise that the message from God to this rich young king would be – **“You have been weighed in the balances and found lacking.”**

But for the character in our story here in Mark 10 it came as a big surprise to everyone who knew him.

The Man?

A) He is Rich, He is young {30}, and He is a Ruler Luke 18:18

B) He has what our culture worships! – **Youth, wealth, Power!**

C) We learn from our text he is also very moral. – Good guy

Probably **GOOD LOOKING** – Rich young – usually are. **We might say this guy was the total package!**

A) Kind of guy your Parents would probably be impressed with –

B) Dad because he could provide, Mom because handsome and sweet! - **The Total Package!**

C) **Reminds me of the story of the young man** Several girls – pretty sweet – each time brought home – **Mother didn't like her.**

D) Found one who Looked like mom / talked like mom / acted like his mother – { **Father didn't like her.**

E) Not the case here: Both parents would be impressed. **Now although this guy had a lot of things going for him – he still had a concern.**

A) There was something that was missing in his life/**that POWER / POSITION & POSSESSIONS** couldn't supply!!!!

B) **HIS CONCERN?** What must I do to obtain eternal life?

C) It was a good question one that marked him as a man who was **Thinking ahead**

1) **Thinking about eternity**

Every person here is going to spend eternity in one of 2 places either Heaven or Hell / Eternal Dying / Eternal Living.

A) This guy wanted **to be sure** that He spent eternity in the right place / he wanted to be prepared

B) What about you are you prepared for eternity ?

- 1) Are You interested in / or thinking about Eternal Life ?
Or are you simply living for the moment.

C) Listen - **Eternity will make this life seem like a short walk in the park! - A BREATH!**

But understand the question was more than an inquiry for the future

A) Eternal life = Age abiding life!

B) In the Jewish mind it spoke of a Quality of life that a person could experience now – living in a right relationship with God!

C) Heaven is the culmination of that Life!

SO This young man was seeking A QUALITY OF LIFE that he had observed in Jesus

A) OTHERS SAW IT TOO / Recall the time, when soldiers were sent out to arrest Jesus, they returned empty handed.

B) They were asked why they didn't lay hold of Jesus

John 7:46 The officers answered, Never has man spoke like this man.

C) They ALSO recognized that there was a quality of life that Jesus possessed that was above the ordinary (**Something Special – Different Quality**)

So this young man, this Rich young ruler – comes to Jesus to ask Him how to obtain eternal life – how to increase his quality of life.

A) This is intriguing to me- because this man had everything that this world says you need to have a quality of life.

B) Power, Position, Possessions, Wealth, - He has it all – Everything that this world says you need to have to be happy and fulfilled.

Bb) But he realizes that something is missing. Something is lacking!

C) Charles Barkley was speaking at a college not long ago – He said – he woke up one day –

1) Huge mansion – 10 cars, the pool, the clothes, etc.

D) Looking at all his wealth – all his stuff – he said **“God, there has got to be more to life than this.”**

There are those who fall into that trap of thinking *if I just could get to this point in life / if I could just climb up the ladder in this place of Business*

A) If I could only buy a house in that Area – then I would be Happy / Satisfied / Fulfilled

B) Problem is that when they get there they find out that it didn't bring the Lasting Satisfaction that they were hoping for.

1) **It has got to be SOMETHING ELSE!**

C) That is where this young man was at! – **There has got to be more to it than this!**

1) So he comes to Jesus – **“Good teacher what must I DO..... LIFE?”**

Notice Jesus Response : v.19 *So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.*

A) There are those who believe that Jesus was changing subjects on this guy

1) I do NOT believe that is the case at all.

B) Jesus quotes what was the common Jewish ideology – *“No one was really good but God.”*

C) Jesus was not implying that He was not good –

D) But he was giving this man a hint to what his problem was;

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1) He was concerned about measuring good and bad, rather than the **state of his heart** – which Jesus is going to get to a minute.

KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS 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.'"*

A) Jesus quotes from the 2nd table of the commandments –

Aa) The 4,5,6,7,8,9 commandments that all have to do with His dealings with others.

B) Jesus was asking the man to consider his horizontal relationships!

C) In essence Jesus is asking some implicit questions: . For example, “Do not defraud.”

1) In other words, have you misrepresented the facts in business dealings?

D) **“Do not steal, do not give false testimony”**: Jesus is asking, **“Have you stolen? Have you even exploited?**

1) Have you taken from people things that are by rights theirs?”

This is where most people want to live is on the level of their horizontal relationships – I am a good person. – I treat people right.

A) Honest, I am fair, I don't steal, etc. – I AM GOOD ENOUGH!

B) This man realizes He is not - Mark 10:20 **“And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth."**

The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?"

Matthew 19:20

C) The man was saying, **“You know what, - I've done everything right:**

1) I've been successful economically, successful socially, successful morally, successful religiously.

D) I have heard you are a good rabbi – and I know there is something I am missing – **what Lack?**

Timothy Keller Kings Cross

“Of course he was missing something. Because anyone who counts on what they are doing to get eternal life will find that, in spite of everything they've accomplished, there's an emptiness, an insecurity, a doubt. Something is bound to be missing.”

Then Jesus looking at him said: You big fat arrogant liar

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A) No that is not what it says: that is what we would expect Jesus to say: *I am going to write in the dirt – show you where you have wronged.*

B) No it says Jesus looked at the guy **and loved him** – he knew the guy was sincere.

C) This was truly a good man who was standing before him – **but the issue is not GOOD AND BAD!**

1) See the answer to the question AM I GOOD ENOUGH is always no – because the standard is perfection.

D) Based on that standard – We are all going to be weighed in the balances and found lacking.

Mistake that many people often make – they focus on the outward to cover and inward problem.

A) We may be using our “**good things**” to deal with the imperfections that no one else can see.

B) We may be trying to turn **physical beauty** into spiritual beauty to deal with that **inner sense of deformity**

C) We may be incessantly trying to turn **material wealth into a spiritual treasure** to deal with that inner sense of poverty.

D) Problem is It is never enough! Always still lacking

The Real issue is the heart – “The Heart of the problem is always a heart problem.”

A) It is about Our heart in relationship to God!

B) Jesus is going to get to the crux of the matter right now!
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."

C) **Here is the heart of the matter:** On another occasion Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 6:4,5 & Leviticus 19:18 to explain that all the commandments were summed up in these two:

Mark 12:29-31 **'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'** This is the first commandment. **31 And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'**

C) REMEMBER - The very first commandment is “you shall have no other gods before me.”

D) So By asking this man to sell his possessions and give the proceeds to the poor – so he could have treasure in heaven

E) Jesus was revealing that the heart of this man’s problem was this, –

1) There was something else that had his heart other than God!

The man’s response reveals that he knew that Jesus was right.

A) Mark 10:22 **“But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”**

B) Note: It doesn’t say that the **man got angry** – went away Mad – “stupid rabbi – what does he know.”

1) **Didn’t go away – Mocking** – That is the dumbest thing I have ever heard

D) He went away sad – because He knew Jesus was right!

The difference between you and me and the Rich young Ruler is we know how his story ends – He went away sad.

A)He chose his wealth over – relationship with God.

B)That was his story – but yours is still being decided. –

C)Is there anything or anyone THAT has your hearts affection more than God?

D)Is there anything in your life that you need to get rid of

1)OR – Put in it's proper place – because it is keeping you from really following Jesus?

Eternal life – Age abiding life – quality of life that starts now and culminates in Heaven is available to you – Give your Heart to Jesus.

A)Jesus looks at you today the way that He looked at that Young man – HE LOVES YOU!

B)Not because of anything that you have done – but because he created you to be loved by Him –

1)Live in relationship with Him

C)Sin separated you –NOT GOOD ENOUGH
AND there is nothing you can do to fix that

1)Jesus came – gave up the comforts of heaven – to rescue you.

D) He wants you to experience Eternal life – give you an opportunity to respond in a few minutes.

THE REAL RICH YOUNG RULER WAS JESUS!

A)Interesting – when it says the man went away sad – the word that is used there is **grieved** – stronger than sad.

B)It is the same word used of Jesus when He was in the garden of Gethsemane – on the night before the cross – Pressed – sweatblood.

1)His spirit was grieved within Him. Why?

C)He knew that he was going to experience the **ultimate dislocation**.

1)He was about to lose the joy of his life, and the core of His identity.

D)He was going to lose relationship with His father – {became sin } experienced – Separation -

1) Experienced what hell is like –

Jesus was losing his center – He was losing His very self on the cross!

A)Jesus set aside more in order to **give this man and us** the opportunity to obtain eternal life, than he was asking this man to set aside to follow Him

B) Jesus could have asked: “If I gave away my BIG ALL in order to get you, - **CAN YOU**, give away your LITTLE ALL in order to follow me?”

2 Corinthians 8:9 “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”

C) He wants you to experience Eternal life –

1)Don't know Him – or Far from God today – I want give you an opportunity to respond in a few minutes.

A CONFUSING STATEMENT V.23-27

23 Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" 24 And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

26 And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, "Who then can be saved?"

27 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

What did Jesus mean when he said 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God?"

A)Over the centuries there have been many who have tried to deal with this statement.

B)Some scholars have argued that in the ancient city there was an small opening in the wall – that was shaped like the eye of a needle.

C)When the gates were closed at night – if you needed to get in – you COULD – unpack your camel – one guy pull on front end.

1)The other guy pushes on the back end - - it would be possible

D)Stupid{ First of all there is no record of such a hole in the wall – and a hole that size would be easy for the enemies to go through.

Others have suggested that it Jesus misspoke – Jesus misspoke?

A)There is a **Aramaic word for twine** that sounds like the Aramaic word for Camel – and Jesus USED THE WRONG WORD.

B)In Other words **God made a mistake ? REALLY**

C)I think Jesus is using a common metaphor to speak of the difficulty of rich people turning to God.

D)When pigs fly, When Hell freezes over, Once in a blue moon

E)We understand that pigs don't fly – hell is not going to ever get cold and the moon does not turn blue.

The text supports this idea:

A)Jesus says v.23 It is hard for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God – Why?

B)V. 24 Answers – **their tendency is to trust in their riches – rather than trusting in God.**

C)People with wealth have the tendency to think that they can buy their way out of problems.

1)**Or they are so prone to trust in their riches – they don't trust in anything else!**

ARE RICHES WRONG?

A)Notice the disciples reaction: V.26 **How can anyone be saved.**

B)The common belief in Israel during the first century was that wealth was a sign of God's blessing

1)**If the rich cannot be saved – who can? – Obviously blessed by God.**

C) Was Jesus saying that riches were bad – No!

“There are many who believe that having a lot of wealth is seen as an injustice.

A) They also have the tendency to believe that you can't accrue great wealth without taking advantage of people.

B) The very fact that Jesus looked at this man and loved him – would dispel that idea.

C) This guy says – I made my money the right way – Jesus sees his heart and is like you sure did.

D) This is a good guy!

The bible teaches us that everything we have is from God!

“Money is a good servant but a cruel Master.”

“Possessions are fine, as long as they do not possess you.”

Emperor Charlemagne in death points to Mark 8:36 “What would it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his own soul?”

Key phrase – It is hard – but nothing is impossible with God!

Peter responds –

28 Then Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You."

Don't you just love Peter – always says what everyone else is thinking!

JESUS RESPONDS TO THE DISCIPLES CONCERN V.
29-31

29 So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's,

30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time — houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions {not easy} —and in the age to come, eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

I think we could sum up what Jesus is saying here with one sentence!

You can never out give God!

- **God sees** { what give – sees persecutions
- **God remembers** { Never forgets your labor of love
- **God rewards** { He blesses and will bless those who have sacrificed for his name.

When we remember that Jesus is the true Rich young ruler – who left glory & gave His life –
TO GIVE ME LIFE

The question is no longer what do I have to give

But What can I give - Show my love and appreciation - For all that He has done for me.

Your life today: Jesus says follow – what is in the way? - **HE LOVES YOU – BEST FOR YOU!**