

## Session #17: Radical Discipleship

### Watch!

Link to video: [https://youtu.be/PyTDxP\\_9Hpc](https://youtu.be/PyTDxP_9Hpc)

### Study!

#### Scriptural Focus: Mark 10:17–31

17 And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" 20 And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." 21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." 22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

23 And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" 24 And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is 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 person to enter the kingdom of God." 26 And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" 27 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." 28 Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." 29 Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

#### Structural Framework:

This lesson is about radical discipleship. In the passage above, Jesus gives a radical call. He asks the rich young ruler to abandon everything he has to follow Him. However, the rich young man is disturbed by Jesus' teaching and is unable to follow through. His emotional attachment to his wealth and status overrules his willingness to heed the words of Jesus.

Before we move on to the next section, there are some things about this passage we must understand.

We must not **universalise** this command. The call to sell all we own and leave our homes may not apply to all of us. Just because Jesus asked the rich young ruler to do so, does not mean He commands everyone else to do the same.

Yet, we must not **trivialise** the content. Just because Jesus doesn't ask everyone, does not mean He has no right to. Jesus is our Saviour King and sovereign Lord. His call to our lives may be different, but when He calls, we should be found willing.

There are nine principles we see in this passage.

## 1. A Radical Approach

Jesus' call to salvation demands **total** surrender. Let's look at verses 17 and 21:

17 And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Mark 10:17)

21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." (Mark 10:21)

Salvation is never a matter of **external** reformation. Salvation is always a matter of **internal** transformation.

Jesus is not merely a respectable **teacher**, Jesus is the sovereign **Lord**:

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. 15 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." 16 And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them. (Mark 10:13-16)

## 2. A Radical Affection

And Jesus, looking at him, *loved* him. (Mark 10:21a, emphasis added)

Jesus calls us to give sacrificially because He **loves** us.

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Luke 12:32-34)

He is a Shepherd who **protects** us.

He is a Father who **delights** in us.

He is a King who **provides** for us.

### 3. A Radical Command

In Mark 10:21, Jesus gives five commands highlighted below:

"You lack one thing: *go, sell* all that you have and *give* to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and *come, follow* me." (Mark 10:21b, emphasis added)

We must remember that Jesus gives us commands, not **considerations**. As followers of Christ, we do not consider **options**. We **obey**.

### 4. A Radical Reward

In the same verse, Jesus also offers us a radical reward:

"You lack one thing: *go, sell* all that you have and give to the poor, and *you will have treasure in heaven*; and come, follow me." (Mark 10:21b, emphasis added)

Jesus doesn't want to strip us of our **pleasure**, Jesus wants to satisfy us with His **treasure**.

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. (Matthew 13:44)

We must ask ourselves, which of the following would we embrace: short-term treasures we can't **keep** or long-term treasures we can't **lose**?

### 5. A Radical Loss

In this passage, we also see a radical loss:

Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. (Mark 10:22)

The truth is, love of possessions will inevitably and ultimately rob us of the **joy** for which we have been created. Three ways the rich young ruler lost his joy: his eyes were **blind**, his face was **sad** and his hands were **full**.

## 6. A Radical Warning

In verses 23–25, Jesus gives us a radical warning:

And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" 24 And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is 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 person to enter the kingdom of God." (Mark 10:23–25)

We desperately need to realise the **deadly** nature of our possessions. According to Jesus, possessions are not **blessings**; possessions are **barriers**.

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. (1 Timothy 6:17–19)

Three ways possessions produce pride in us:

1. Riches cause us to become **self-confident**.
2. Riches cause us to become **self-sufficient**.
3. Riches cause us to become **self-centred**.

Therefore, there are two ways we can live life:

1. A life of selfish **luxury** that forsakes the Kingdom.
2. A life of selfless **love** for the sake of the Kingdom.

## 7. A Radical Gift

We must remember that salvation is a radical gift!

And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" 27 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." (Mark 10:26–27)

Salvation is utterly **impossible** for any and every person apart from the grace of God. Three truths on salvation:

1. God gives salvation to us.
2. God does not sell us salvation.
3. God does not trade salvation.

## 8. A Radical Freedom

Jesus now gives us a radical freedom:

Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." (Mark 10:28)

Jesus frees us from our bondage to ourselves and our **possessions**. We are free to **go** wherever He calls and we are free to **give** whatever He asks.

## 9. A Radical Family

Lastly, Jesus gives us a radical family:

Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first." (Mark 10:29-31)

Jesus unites His people together to enjoy and **love** one another as they abandon themselves to Him. The **church** no longer seems like an abstract idea, **sacrifice** no longer seems like an appropriate term, and this **world** no longer seems like an acceptable home.

## Reflect!

What are some key insights that I can take away from today's session?

What aspect of my life would be most difficult to surrender if Jesus asked?

## Discuss!

Q1: Read Mark 10:17-31. Does the rich young ruler seem to genuinely want to follow Jesus? Why or why not?

Q2: If someone like the rich young ruler came to you asking a similar question, how would you respond?

Q3: If you were in the rich young ruler's place, what would you have done differently?

Q4: Why would wealth be a hindrance to the Kingdom of God?

Q5: In this lesson, we learn that Jesus calls us to give sacrificially because He loves us. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

Q6: Peter was concerned about the sacrifices he had made to follow Jesus. What sacrifices might Christians today be asked to give?

Q7: Looking at verse 21, which of Jesus' five commands is the most challenging for you? Why?

Q8: Have there been things in your past God has challenged you to sacrifice for the gospel? How did that make you feel? How did you overcome that challenge?

Q9: Is there anything that you are willing to share that is holding you back from fully surrendering all aspects of your life to God?

Q10: How would you like to be kept accountable with your learnings from this session?

## Challenge!

Congratulations on reaching the last session of this course! We hope that you have been truly blessed by all the content and teachings given. Now that you have completed the course, we invite you to share it with others. Identify people in your life who desire to grow deeper in discipleship and facilitate a group of your own. Part of being a disciple is to make disciples of others, journey with them and share the lessons you have learnt!

## Memorise!

Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first." (Mark 10:29-31)