

Main Scripture: Mark 10:17-31 (NIV)

The rich young man asks Jesus how to inherit eternal life, but walks away sad when Jesus tells him to sell everything and follow Him. Jesus explains the difficulty of entering the Kingdom for those attached to wealth, emphasizing that salvation is only possible with God. He assures the disciples that those who sacrifice for Him will be richly rewarded both now and in eternity, though challenges will come.

Key Points from the Sermon

1. **Freedom in Christ**
 - True freedom isn't found in rules or self-sufficiency, but through surrendering to Christ and living by the Spirit.
 - Jesus calls us to let go of anything that keeps us from following Him wholeheartedly.
2. **The Rich Young Man's Dilemma**
 - The young man sought eternal life but couldn't give up his wealth, which was more than just money; it was his identity and security.
 - Jesus wasn't asking him to sell his possessions for the sake of being poor, but to be free from what was holding him back.
3. **What Holds Us Back?**
 - Jesus challenges us to ask: What are we holding onto? Wealth, success, relationships, or security can all become idols that keep us from fully following Christ.
 - Following Jesus is not about adding Him to our lives—it requires full surrender.
4. **The Danger of Wealth**
 - Wealth and self-reliance can create a false sense of security, blinding us to our need for God. Anything that makes us feel self-sufficient can become a stumbling block.
 - John Wesley warned about the dangers of wealth, reminding us that while it can be used for good, it often traps us in materialism and keeps us from relying on God.
5. **The Impossible Made Possible**
 - The disciples were shocked that Jesus said it's difficult for the rich to enter the Kingdom. But Jesus points out that what is impossible for humans is possible with God.
 - Our salvation isn't earned by human efforts but is a gift from God, made possible through His grace.
6. **The Reward of Discipleship**

- Jesus assures us that whatever we sacrifice for Him will be returned to us many times over, both in this life and in eternity.
 - However, He also reminds us that persecution and challenges will come with the rewards.
 - The Kingdom of God turns the world's values upside down—those who are last will be first.
- 7. Living for Christ and Others**
- Discipleship is not about being first or gaining the most for ourselves. It's about living with humility, service, and sacrifice for the sake of others.
 - Our call is to live with purpose beyond ourselves and to share the Gospel with those who don't know Jesus.
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Reflection Questions

- What are the things in your life that you're holding onto more tightly than you are holding onto Jesus?
 - If Jesus asked you to give something up to follow Him, would you walk away sad like the rich young man?
 - How can you start letting go of the things that keep you from living in the freedom of Christ?
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Challenge for the Week

This week, take one step toward putting Jesus first in your life. Identify something that's holding you back—whether it's your career, wealth, relationships, or another area—and take a practical step to surrender it to Christ. Also, think of one person in your life who doesn't know Jesus and commit to praying for them and seeking an opportunity to share God's love with them.

Thought for the Week

“Being last in the Kingdom doesn't mean missing out—it means living with a purpose that goes beyond ourselves. The true treasure is not in what we gain here on earth, but in the lives we impact for eternity.”

Prayer

Lord Jesus, help me to let go of the things I cling to more than You. Show me what's holding me back from following You with my whole heart. Give me the courage to surrender and trust that

You will provide all I need. Let me live with purpose, sharing Your love with those who don't yet know You. In Your name, I pray, Amen.

The Cost of Discipleship is Great, But the Reward is Eternal.