

Lesson 2, March 8, 2026, Simple Faith, Mark 10:17-31

Text: Mark 10:17–31

Bible Truth: Jesus showed that faith in God makes it possible for people to sacrifice their all for the benefit of others.

MEMORY VERSE: *Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. (Mark 10:21)*

Lesson Aim - Key Takeaways

1. Jesus lovingly exposes our idols

He doesn't shame the man—He loves him.
Love tells the truth.

2. Discipleship requires surrender

Not everyone is asked to sell everything,
but everyone is asked to give Jesus everything.

3. Salvation is impossible without God

Human effort cannot save.
Grace is the only doorway.

4. Kingdom values differ from worldly values

Earthly “success” does not equal spiritual success.

1. Opening Engagement

Starter Question:

What is something you once thought you could never live without—but later realized you could?

Let students share. This primes them for the theme of misplaced security.

Transition:

Jesus meets a man who has everything—except the one thing he truly needs.

2. Background & Context

- Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem, where He will soon face the cross.
 - Crowds follow Him, but He is clarifying what true discipleship requires.
 - Wealth in the ancient world was often seen as a sign of God's favor—so Jesus' teaching here is shocking.
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Names that matter:

- Mark: Author
 - Jesus: Son of God, The one who is speaking
 - Young Rich Ruler: that man who approaches Jesus
 - Place: On the way to Jerusalem
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The Lesson: Mark 10:17-31 KJV

I. Rich Ruler's Question (vv. 17–22)

¹⁷And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

¹⁸And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is none good but one, that is, God.*

¹⁹Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

²⁰And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

²¹Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

²²And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

What's Happening Here? Vs. 17

In to the “WAY”

- Is referencing Jesus going into Jerusalem for his crucifixion.

A wealthy young man runs to Jesus and asks:

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Key insights:

- His posture is sincere—he kneels.
- His question is sincere—but flawed. He assumes eternal life is earned.
- Jesus lists commandments dealing with human relationships.
 - relationships
 - honesty
 - integrity
 - honoring parents
 - The man claims he has kept them since youth.

He intentionally chooses the *horizontal* commandments (how we treat others), not the ones about loving God.

Teaching Point:

You can be morally impressive and still spiritually empty.

B. The Challenge (v. 21)

Mark includes a beautiful detail:

“Jesus looked at him and loved him.”

Then Jesus says:

“One thing you lack...”

- Sell your possessions
- Give to the poor
- Follow Me

Jesus is exposing the man's *true master*. And that's his things.

Teaching Point:

Jesus doesn't just want our obedience—He wants our heart.

C. The Tragedy (v. 22)

The man walks away sad.

- He wanted eternal life, but not at the cost of his wealth.

Teaching Point:

Anything we refuse to surrender becomes the thing that rules us.

II Disciples' Question

²³And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

²⁴And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!

²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

²⁶And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?

What's Happening Here?**D. The Teaching (vv. 23–26)**

Jesus turns to His disciples and says wealth can make entering the kingdom extremely difficult.

Not because money is evil—but because it creates:

- self-sufficiency
- comfort
- false security

The disciples are shocked.

If the rich—who seemed blessed—can't enter easily, who can?

Jesus answers:

“With man this is impossible, but not with God.”

Teaching Point:

Salvation is not achieved—it is received.

III Christ’s Promise (vv. 27–31)

²⁷And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men *it is* impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

²⁸Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.

²⁹And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

³⁰But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

³¹But many *that are* first shall be last; and the last first.

What’s Happening Here?

1. Jesus Corrects Their Assumptions (v. 27)

The disciples have just heard Jesus say it’s hard for the rich to enter the kingdom. They’re shocked—because in their culture, wealth was seen as a sign of God’s blessing.

So Jesus looks at them and says:

- “With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.”

What He means:

- No one—rich or poor—can save themselves.
- Eternal life is not earned by effort, morality, or sacrifice.
- Salvation is God’s work, not human achievement.

This is the heart of the gospel:

What we cannot do, God can.

2. Peter Speaks Up (v. 28)

Peter says:

“We have left all, and have followed You.”

He’s basically asking:

- *“What about us? We did what the rich young ruler wouldn’t.”*
- *“Does our sacrifice matter?”*

It’s not pride—it’s honest confusion.

They’ve given up homes, jobs, family networks, security.

They want to know if it was worth it. Giving up what they LOVED... in order to have...

- spiritual family
- purpose
- eternal life
- and even blessings in this life (with persecutions)

But He ends with a reversal:

“Many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Teaching Point:

The kingdom flips earthly values upside down.

3. Jesus Gives a Stunning Promise (vv. 29–30)

Jesus reassures them:

Anyone who has left:

- house
- brothers
- sisters
- parents
- children

- land

for His sake and the gospel's will receive a hundredfold:

In this life:- life with Christ

- a new spiritual family
- community
- support
- belonging
- purpose
- provision

“with persecutions”

Jesus is honest—following Him brings blessing *and* hardship.

In the age to come:

- eternal life

This is Jesus' way of saying: “Nothing you give up for Me is ever wasted. I repay in ways the world cannot.”

4. Jesus Ends With a Kingdom Reversal (v. 31)

- “Many that are first shall be last; and the last first.”
- This flips the world's values upside down.

What it means:

- Earthly status doesn't impress God.
- Those who seem “successful” now may be spiritually bankrupt.
- Those who seem insignificant now may be honored in God's kingdom.
- God sees sacrifice differently than the world does.

This is a warning to the proud and a comfort to the humble.

5. Discussion Questions

Heart-Level Questions

- What do you think the rich young ruler expected Jesus to say?
- Why do you think Jesus' command made him sad instead of angry?
- What are some modern "riches" that can keep people from following Jesus wholeheartedly?

Application Questions

- What is one thing that competes for your trust or affection?
- How does Jesus lovingly expose our idols today?
- What does it look like to follow Jesus with open hands?

Group Reflection

- How does this passage challenge our culture's view of success?
 - How does it comfort those who feel like they don't have much to offer?
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6. Practical Application for the Week

Invite students to reflect on this question each day:

"What is one thing I can release today so I can follow Jesus more freely?"

Encourage them to journal or pray through areas of:

- control
 - security
 - identity
 - possessions
 - relationships
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Fill-in-the-Blank Worksheet

Mark 10:17-31 — The Rich Young Ruler

1. The Man's Question (vv. 17-20)

1. The rich young ruler asked Jesus, "What must I do to _____ eternal life?"
 2. Jesus listed several _____ to reveal the man's heart.
 3. The man said he had kept all these since his _____.
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2. Jesus' Loving Challenge (v. 21)

4. Jesus looked at the man and _____ him.
 5. Jesus said, "One thing you _____."
 6. Jesus told him to sell his _____, give to the poor, and follow Him.
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3. The Man's Response (v. 22)

7. The man went away _____ because he had great wealth.
 8. His possessions were the thing he would not _____.
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4. Jesus' Teaching on Wealth (vv. 23-27)

9. Jesus said it is hard for the _____ to enter the kingdom of God.
 10. The disciples were amazed and asked, "Who then can be _____?"
 11. Jesus answered, "With man this is _____, but not with God."
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5. The Promise for Disciples (vv. 28-31)

12. Peter said, "We have _____ everything to follow You."
13. Jesus promised blessings "in this _____ and in the age to come."
14. Jesus said, "Many who are _____ will be last, and the last first."

Reflection Questions (Short Answer)

15. What is one thing that might compete for your heart the way wealth did for the rich young ruler?
16. Why do you think Jesus asked *this* man to give up his possessions?
17. What does this story teach you about following Jesus with open hands?