

Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of November 7, 2021

Mark 10:17-31

Missions Celebration Weekend

This follows our Missions Weekend message. Bill Born spoke on Mark 10:17-31 in a monologue. The focus is on the daily decision to "leave everything and follow Him."

LOOKING BACK

What was one of the most difficult decisions you have made? What made it difficult?

The idea of making a difficult decision to follow Jesus is at the core of this week's study.

Most of us have had to make many difficult decisions. None is greater than choosing to give up my life to follow Jesus.

LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD

If you haven't yet, perhaps listen to the message from this last Sunday. You can hear it through our website or search Youtube for "Trinity Church Redlands."

Our focus this week is on a man's encounter with Jesus. We're going to read the Scriptures and discuss these questions together.

Read about these previous encounters with Jesus:

Mark 8:34-36. What happens here?

Jesus was very clear with both the crowd and His disciples that to pursue Him / be with Him, they must deny oneself, take up cross and follow. Said another way, they must lose their life for His sake and the gospel's sake.

Mark 9:36-37 What happens here? Why children?

Jesus' illustration pointed to how children trust in others for everything. This is opposed to those who trust in themselves.

Now read Mark 10:17-31 (our passage for this week)

How would you describe the man who approached Jesus? What do you see in him?

Here and in other gospels, we know that this was a younger man and wealthy. However, we see that he was seeking, humbled himself, and pursued Jesus. We don't know if he ever turned to Jesus.

How do you understand Jesus' question in v.18?

Mark 10:18 ¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.

Jesus points to the standard to be able to be with God. That is, only those who are as good as God can inherit eternal life. This is only possible through Jesus who gives us His righteousness through faith in Him (death, resurrection).

How do you understand the man's response in v.20?

Mark 10:20 And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up." This young man had attempted to follow God's laws. This does not mean that he met the standards of righteousness. Rather, it shows the efforts of a religious person. He had not yet understood that his own achievements fell short.

Jesus' response opens with the preamble that Jesus "loved (agape) him." (v.21) Why would the author have included this statement?

It is an act of pure love to call someone to complete trust, absolute faith in Jesus alone. There is no greater gift. This man was going to miss eternal life unless he gave up his trust in his wealth. For all of us, we too must declare that we bring nothing / add nothing to the work of Christ.

What is significant that Jesus said, "for me and the gospel?" (v.29)

The gospel was Jesus' mission. When we leave the world behind and follow Jesus, we are following His compassion and love for people. There is no greater act of love than to help others know, love, and follow Jesus.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What was the main topic of Jesus' response to the man's question and response (21-28)? Was Jesus' focusing on money? Why or why not?

Jesus was calling the man to put His full trust in Jesus alone. Were the man to sell and live in poverty and helplessness, then he would understand that he was unable to achieve his own righteousness and thus eternal life.

The focus was on money for this man. It is different for different people. Jesus was calling us to renounce our attempt to achieve or arrive at eternal life on our own ability or merit. The call was to discipleship, not poverty.

For all of us, we too must renounce our own righteousness and trust as a child trusts – in complete dependency on God/Jesus. The result of that trust will be to leave everything that we depend on that is other than Jesus.

Since we are wealthy compared to the rest of the world, what is Jesus asking of us? What do you think it means for us to "leave everything and follow" Jesus? (21,28)

By nature, we cling to and trust in idols in this world. We are abandoning the idea that anything else but God will satisfy and that anything other than the work of Christ can bring us into eternal life with God.

Each of us is called to "leave everything and follow" Him. For me, this has been a daily, a yearly, and a lifelong calling. First, for my salvation, I had to admit that I have a long list of sins, past, present, and future. And, that I have no ability to atone for or make my own righteousness. Therefore, I cannot have eternal life with God. Second, to love and follow Jesus, I must renounce my attachment to or dependency on this world. And third, I must be willing to die for Jesus – die in anyway if I am to be in fellowship with Jesus as His disciple.

What kinds of things keep us from leaving everything to follow Him?

The list is long: pride, comfort, security, pleasure, fulfillment, fame / popularity with people, desires of the flesh of many kinds, etc.

How does Jesus' promise apply to us today? (vs. 29-31)

Mark 10:29-30 ²⁹ "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields-- and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.

This promise has been abused and used in wrong ways. Jesus is not promising 100X wealth, better houses, more family in this life (e.g. you wouldn't get 100 homes, 100 sisters, etc.). Rather, that in your new community of Christ followers, God will take care of your every need and in the future kingdom, abundantly more.

ENCOURAGING YOUR GLOBAL PARTNERS

Many of our community have left their station to follow Jesus around the world. We call them our "global partners." Most Home Groups have a global partner that they have adopted. Enjoy some time discussing how you can love and care for your global partners. Make a plan that will last through December.

Shepherds, please set aside time to consider how you can encourage your global partner.

PRAY

- Please pray for your global partners
- Please pray for us to be people who 'leave everything' to follow Jesus
- Please pray for the next generation