

DON'T HOLD BACK (PART 3)

MARK 10:17-31

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – MARCH 12, 2023

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 10:17-31 ESV

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.”

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

What are you holding onto that is keeping you from the fullness of God in your life?

SERMON RECAP

1. Psalm 85 presents these characteristics of biblical revival:
 - Favor from God
 - Forgiveness from God
 - Restoration to God
 - Joy in God
 - Salvation from God
 - Word of God
 - Fear of God
 - Glory of God
 - Righteousness before God
2. Our church is encouraged and overwhelmed by all the stories of what God is doing among us. What is happening?
 - Jesus is calling you to **radical surrender** to Him.
 - Jesus is calling you with **radical love** for you.
3. Isaiah 55 is an invitation from God to come to Him and seek Him. In response, you are either going to be a participant or an observer. Mark 10 depicts the posture of an **observer**:
 - The man’s eyes were blind.
 - His face was sad.
 - His hands were full with what won’t fulfill.
4. But Jesus is inviting you to follow and **participate**.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Mark 10:17-31 and Jeremiah 6:16-19 aloud as a group. As they simultaneously consider both passages, allow group members to share their observations.

1. What is the distinction between solely seeing Jesus as a “Good Teacher” and knowing Him as LORD? (cf. Matthew 7:21-23; John 10:27)

2. In Mark 10—
 - What was the posture of Jesus' heart toward the man (Mark 10:21)?
 - What invitation did Jesus extend to the man (Mark 10:21)?
 - What was the prevailing allegiance in the man's heart: Jesus or his great possessions (Mark 10:22)?
 - Compare and contrast the man's allegiance in Mark 10:22 with Jesus' teaching in Mark 10:29-31. What do you observe?
 - What response to Jesus' invitation did the man's allegiance provoke from his heart (Mark 10:22)?
3. How does the man's response in Mark 10:22 compare to the people of Jerusalem's response to the LORD's invitation in Jeremiah 6:16-17? What severe consequences did the LORD promise to the people of Jerusalem because they rejected His invitation (Jeremiah 6:18-19)?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

LEADER NOTE: The LORD is bringing His church to an important turning point. Thus, due to the specific nature of this moment and today's sermon, please prayerfully and carefully seek and follow the LORD's leading to apply this sermon in ways that are reflective of His will and appropriate for your Church Group. Please allow ample time for the group to pray, process and seek the LORD together.

How can we apply these passage to our lives?

1. Jesus is calling you to radical surrender to Him. Do you truly know Jesus as your LORD, or are you more prone to see Him solely as a "Good Teacher" that you strive (or would like to strive) to model and emulate? (cf. Matthew 7:13-14, 21-27)
2. Jesus is calling you with radical love for you.
 - Do you know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge (Ephesians 3:19)? Is His love for you an anchor for your soul (cf. Hebrews 6:19)? In the depths of your heart, are you confident of His love for you? If so, on what grounds? And if not, what are some of the reasons for this?
 - (LEADER NOTE: If your session time does not allow you to collectively process this item during the gathering, please invite your group members to process and reflect of this invitation in their personal time outside of the gathering.)
 - Hear and consider meditating on the LORD's own testimony about His love toward His children in the following (or other similar) passages:
 - i. "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love." (1 John 4:18)
 - ii. "But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children," (Psalm 103:17)
 - iii. "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. 2 Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever. 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever; ... 26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever." (Psalm 136:1-3, 26)
 - iv. "For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you." (Isaiah 54:10)
 - v. "...when Israel sought for rest, the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you." (Jeremiah 31:2c-3)
 - vi. "but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love." (Psalm 147:11)
3. The LORD has brought His church to a crossroads, inviting each of us to choose the 'good way' (Jeremiah 6:16). What choice will you make? Will you accept the LORD's loving invitation and participate in what He is doing among us? Or will you refuse His invitation and simply observe His work?
 - If you are accepting the LORD's invitation, what will you give up to do so? How will your radical abandonment to and pursuit of the LORD look? What former 'gain' will you now count as loss for the sake of knowing Christ (Philippians 3:7-8)?
 - If you are refusing the LORD's invitation, what is holding you back? Please reach out to your Church Group leader or location pastor for Godly wisdom, loving counsel, and Spirit-led prayer.

LEADER NOTES

Looking to serve? Check out mcleanbible.org/localoutreach for ideas and to register your event, or contact us at localoutreach@mcleanbible.org for additional assistance.