

Mark 10

Mark 10.1-12

V1 – This was a turning point in the life of Christ: He left Galilee for the first time, and he was setting his face toward Jerusalem and the cross

-**What kind of reception did he receive as he travelled toward Jerusalem?** Huge crowds were following him

-**What was his reaction to the crowds?** He began to teach them, as was his custom

V2 – **What group of people tried to trick him?** The Pharisees

-**Who were the Pharisees?** Read Acts 23.7-8

-**Which apostle was a former Pharisee?** Paul (*Philippians 3.5*)

-**What was the purpose of the questions that the Pharisees asked Jesus?** To "test" him

-**What was the question that they asked?** The cause for divorce

-**Why would this have been a dangerous question?** Because of the divorce and remarriage of King Herod

V3 – **How did Jesus respond to their question?** He asked them what Moses said on the subject

V4 – They were referring to: **Read Deuteronomy 24.1-2**

V5 – **What did Jesus say about the Law of Moses on this point?** It was because of the hardness of their hearts that God's will was compromised (for a time under the Old Law)

V6 – **But what was the law of God from the beginning of the creation?** They were made male and female

V7-8 – Jesus was quoting here *Genesis 2.24* – a man was to leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife

-The two were to become one flesh (like one person after the wedding)

V9 – **What was the conclusion of Jesus here?** That man was not to separate a husband and a wife

Two points:

1. Notice "*the beginning*" (v 6) – this refutes the theory of evolution – God created man and woman in the beginning, not after billions of years of evolution

-There can be no compromise between evolution and the creation account – one of them is wrong

2. *V9* – Man is not to separate what God has joined together – however, *Matthew 19.9* teaches us that God will recognize a divorce when sexual unfaithfulness is involved

-Then and only then can the innocent party divorce and remarry

-So God's law is that marriage is for life, with only that one exception

V10 – The apostles wanted to know more about this subject

-It was just as controversial back then as it is today

V11-12 – So any person who divorces for a cause other than sexual unfaithfulness and marries someone else is guilty of adultery

Read Revelation 21.8 – Adulterers will not enter the kingdom of heaven

Mark 10.13-16

V 13 – Why would the next subject be children? Because they are usually the ones who suffer from error on marriage-divorce-remarriage

-**Why would people want Jesus to touch their children?** For comfort, maybe for healing

V 14 - What was the reaction of Jesus to what happened? He was indignant, very mad, and upset

-**What was his commandment on children?** Let them come to me, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these

Three great lessons here:

1. The value of children – It is always irritating when people want to have a party for adults only (children are not invited)

-There is something basically wrong with people who cannot have fun unless their children are not there

-For the writer of these notes: Basically when we go to an activity, our children go, and if they are not invited, then we are not invited

2. In the Lord's church, we need to have the children present for the worship service of the church

-It is a shame that the children are taken out of the services at some congregations

-It does not do them any good, and they do not learn how to behave that way

3. Children are innocent of sins – there is no need to baptize babies; they don't have any sins

-In fact, we have to become like them in order to be saved

V 15 – In what other ways do we have to become like children in order to be saved? Searching for the truth, willing to accept it, having a "child-like" attitude

V 16 – What did Jesus do for the children? Hugged them and healed the sick ones

-It is too bad that we see apartment buildings and even housing units and "gated communities" where children are not allowed to live

-We see some couples who are choosing not to have children; they will be full of sorrow in later years

-A career will satisfy for a few years, but not in the long run

-Ultimately, children bring more happiness than just about anything else in this life (see *Psalms 127.3-5*)

Mark 10.17-22

V 17 – This is the man known as the Rich Young Ruler: young (*Matt. 19.22*), rich (*Mark 10.22*), a ruler (*Luke 18.18*) – we combine these three accounts for his title as the Rich Young Ruler

-**How did the Rich Young Ruler approach Jesus?** Ran up, as a First Century Yuppie (young urban professional – the audience that Mark was writing for)

-He was in a hurry, as people of our generation generally are (Type A behavior)

-**How did he honor Jesus?** Bowed down before him

-**What question did he ask Jesus?** "Good teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

V 18 – **How did Jesus first correct the Rich Young Ruler?** Either Jesus was God, or he was not good

-In other words, either recognize him as deity, or else don't come to him for advice

V 19 – What did Jesus say next? He started repeating the Ten Commandments

- Which one did he not mention?** #4 – Remember the Sabbath Day
- We do not find it repeated anywhere in the New Testament, although the other nine commandments are found in the New Testament

V 20 – What was the answer of the Rich Young Ruler? He had done all these things since he was a child

- What does this tell us about the Rich Young Ruler?** A pretty good person (or else a liar)
- What did he call Jesus this time?** Master – shows that he was a fast learner
- This also indicates that he was a sincere person

V 21 – What emotion did Jesus have for him? Loved him, because he was a person searching for the truth

- What else did Jesus ask him to do?** Sell everything, give it to the poor, and follow him
- What would be the result of doing that?** He would have a treasure in heaven
- Why would Jesus say that to the Rich Young Ruler (when he didn't say that to any other person in the Bible)?**
- Because that was the one basic problem that the Rich Young Ruler had – **Read Matthew 6.24**

V 22 – What was the answer of the Rich Young Ruler? His face fell, and he went away grieved

- Why?** Because he owned a lot of property
- Great lesson?** His property stood in the way of his salvation, but he could not give up his possessions
- If there is anything today that stands between us and Christ, it has to go
- Rich people in the Bible?** Abraham, David, Joseph of Arimathea, Barnabas, Philemon

Mark 10.23-31

V 23 – Did Jesus try to run after the man and beg him to reconsider? No, he had given the Rich Young Ruler a clear choice in life; the man had made a decision

- There is no need to bribe people into the church, no need to try to lower the standards so that more will become members of the church
- When we have presented the gospel to a person in clear terms and that person has rejected it, then we go on to the next person
- What general conclusion did Jesus draw at this point?** It is hard for rich people to be saved
- But this is just what people want today (to be rich) – that is the goal of most people, and that is the modern way of life, and it is almost unpatriotic to suggest otherwise
- Jesus did not say that it was impossible for rich people to be saved, but just that it was very difficult

V 24 – Why were the apostles amazed at these words? Because it goes directly against all that people are taught to believe about life (that getting rich is the goal)

- What was the conclusion of Jesus on this point?** That it was hard to get into heaven
- Read 1 Peter 4.18**

V 25 – Famous statement: some say that this is a reference to a low door in the wall of Jerusalem, but

not so – in fact, Luke used the Greek word for a surgeon's needle

-This ought to make us all think about the danger of wealth in our lives

-When a person misses church because of a job, he or she should think about this verse: nothing is more important than making it to heaven – if a job causes us to miss heaven, the world's best job will not be worth it

V 26 – The apostles were even more astonished

-**What was their conclusion?** Nobody can make it to heaven (a sense of exasperation)

V 27 – **Answer of Jesus?** Nobody can make heaven without a lot of help from God

V 28 – **Who spoke up next?** Peter (as usual) – we can see his mind working on what Jesus just said

-**What comment did Peter make?** "We have given up everything to follow you"

V 29 – **Apparently, what had some of the apostles given up to follow Jesus?** Brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, farms

V 30 – **What would be the reward?** 100 times in this life (houses, brothers, sisters, mother, children, farms) along with persecution (not a life of total happiness)

-**And in the next life?** Heaven

-**How do we gain all these things in this life?** Hospitality of faithful Christians, and fellowship of the people of God, and the blessings of God

V 31 – **What great principle did he repeat here?** The first of this life will be last

Mark 10.32-34

V 32 – **What direction were they going in?** Still toward Jerusalem (on the way to the cross)

-**Why was Jesus walking ahead of them?** Leading the way, showing them that he was not afraid of what was going to happen in Jerusalem

-Jesus began going over again what was going to happen

V 33 – Notice: "up" to Jerusalem (higher elevation)

-**What would happen to Jesus at Jerusalem?** He would be condemned to death and be delivered to the Gentiles (Romans)

V 34 – **What else would happen?** He would be mocked, spit on, scourged, and killed, but he would rise up three days later

Mark 32-35-40

V 35 – Apparently James and John had not understood the previous statements about humility (v 31)

-**What did they ask?** For Jesus to do whatever they asked for

-Sometimes children will ask, "Before I ask you, will you promise to give me what I want?"

-Or: "Promise that you won't say no when I ask you this"

V 36 – Jesus asked them what they wanted

V 37 – What was their request? For one to sit at his right hand and the other on his left hand when he would be glorified

V 38 – What was the first response of Jesus? You don't know what you are asking for
-Isn't that true of many of our prayers today? If we got what we thought we really wanted, we would be miserable
-What was the problem with their request? It involved the same suffering that he would go through

V 39 – What was their attitude toward that? "We can do it" – "No problem"
-But they did have to endure severe persecution for the name of Christ
-James was beheaded - **Read Acts 12.2**
-John wrote the *Revelation* from prison, and he was probably executed there
Read Revelation 1.9

V 40 – What was the reply of Jesus? Basically only he could go to the cross, that was what God had prepared for him to do
-So it was out of the hands of Christ; it was only in the hands of God the Father

Mark 10.41-45

V 41 – What was the attitude of the other apostles about this? Mad at James and John and their arrogant attitude

V 42 – Jesus wanted to explain it to them more thoroughly
-What was the attitude of the world toward power? They loved it – the same as today: People want a promotion, more authority, and more power
-People like to "lord it over" others, tell other people what to do, boss them around
-One man said to this writer: "I used to get ulcers from my work, but now I give other people ulcers"

V 43 – But what was to be the attitude among the followers of Christ? Just the opposite

V 44 – He repeated the great principle once again (v 31)
-What is the goal of every Christian? To serve others

V 45 – What was the attitude of Christ toward the human race? To serve them
-There were very few times when people served Christ; he usually served them
-Usually there were cases of honoring Christ rather than serving him

Mark 10.46-52

V 46 – What town did they come to next? Jericho (long history going back to *Joshua 2*)
-What kind of crowd was following Jesus now? A great crowd
-What are we told about Bartimaeus? Blind, a beggar (very low on the social ladder)
-"Bar" means "son of" – as in the word Johnson, Anderson, etc.

-Most of us have tried holding our eyes shut to see what it is like to be blind, but it usually doesn't last very long

-**Where was Bartimaeus at this time?** Sitting beside the road

V 47 – What did Bartimaeus do when he heard that Jesus was coming down the road? He cried out to him

-The word about Jesus had started to spread

-Bartimaeus must have heard that Jesus could heal sick people

V 48 – What was the reaction of the crowd to Bartimaeus? They told him to be quiet (similar to the way the apostles tried to keep the children away from Christ)

-His cry for mercy is very touching; he was in a pitiful situation

V 49 – What a great verse – Jesus is calling for every person today

-We must reply in some way, just as Bartimaeus had to do something in order to be healed

V 50 – What was the reaction of Bartimaeus? Threw his coat aside and went to Jesus immediately

V 51 - Question of Jesus to Bartimaeus? "What do you want me to do for you?" (Notice the servant attitude again)

-**Answer of Bartimaeus?** "Master, I want to regain my sight" (so he had not always been blind)

V 52 – Immediately Bartimaeus was given back his sight

-**What was the reaction of Bartimaeus to this?** Began following Jesus down the road

-This is one of the most touching miracles that Jesus ever performed

When we compare the three accounts of this miracle (*Matt. 20.29-24, Mark 10.46-52, Luke 18.35-43*), we find some interesting details

-In Matthew's account, he speaks of two blind men. We have to assume that Bartimaeus was much more aggressive than his nameless partner.

-Mark speaks of Jesus approaching the city of Jericho, and Luke's account speaks of Jesus leaving the city.

Dr. Gleason Archer, in his outstanding book *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties*, makes excellent comments. The nameless man in Matthew was not at all aggressive in asking Jesus to heal him of his blindness, whereas Bartimaeus pursued Jesus from when Jesus entered the city until he was leaving the city (never to return again to Jericho). As Jesus was leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus cried out to be healed with all his might. He knew that it was now or never, if he really wanted to be healed of his blindness. It seems that Jesus wanted to know just how determined Bartimaeus was to be healed, and this point Jesus granted him his wish (and also granted sight to the other man). Please see Dr. Archer's complete exposition of this miracle in his book, pp. 332-33 of the 1982 edition (there is now a 2001 edition also).

Great lessons from Mark 10

-Seriousness of marriage

-Deceitfulness of wealth

-Problem of liking to boss other people around

-Power of Christ in healing the sick

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