

Home Group Notes

Testing Times 5 - God or Mammon

Mark 10:17-31

Have you ever argued about money with a friend or a relative? Have you tried retail therapy?!! Does it work?

Read Mark 10:17-22

1. Jesus tells us that we receive the Kingdom of God as a child in v15. How does the man in our reading show that he is eager to become a disciple of Jesus (v 17)? How did this man think he could gain eternal life?
2. What might we think we need to **do** to be good enough to inherit eternal life? If only God is truly good what are the implications for the man and us?
3. Jesus summarises the law to the man. How does the man answer in v 20? What had totally escaped this man?
4. How do we confidently react when we look at our own morality compared to that of others v 20?
5. Jesus recognised the man's sincerity but puts the finger on his problem v 21. How much of our security is vested in money, possessions, status or position? Is it a problem for us as it was for this man? What is the only way to life says Jesus?
6. What does Jesus mean by treasure in heaven?
Sacrifice for Jesus is not loss but investment!!
7. And the man's reaction to this in v 22? Is following Jesus too hard for us?

None of us can stand on our own merits.

Read Mark 10:23-27

8. Why were the disciples perplexed and shocked by Jesus' response to wealth in vs 23, 26?

9. Does Jesus mean that poor people get into the Kingdom more easily? Are all less well off people necessarily less materialistic?
10. Why is wealth such a potential danger to faith in Jesus vs24 & 25? Is Jesus condemning wealth? See Matt 27:57 and Mk 14:3-9.
11. The disciples at last ask the right Q in v 26! So what can we do to be saved? There are two answers. What are they? (cf Acts 16:30-31). *It's Amazing Grace again!!*

Read Mark 10:28-31

12. If what we do has no bearing on salvation is self-sacrifice ultimately worthless? vs 28
13. What does Jesus call on our lives take priority over? vs 29
14. But what do we ultimately gain as we give up our 'nets' and 'wealth' for Jesus?
15. But be prepared because it's going to lead possibly to difficulties - 'with persecutions' vs 30
16. The way God evaluates our lives is reversed vs 31. Discipleship is about following Jesus which involves suffering and service.

Prayer Points

- Pray that we will not allow anything to get in the way of us entering the Kingdom of God.
- Pray for those who are obsessed by wealth, whether rich or poor.
- Pray for a generous, gracious heart towards others.
- Pray for those who are persecuted for their faith in Jesus.
- Pray that we will be people who are true disciples of Jesus.
- Pray that as a church and as individuals we will be good stewards of what God has given us.