

Introduction

One day while I was walking down one of the corridors at the Cobb County Adult Detention Center (CCADC), a maximum-security prison, a group of inmates in chains who were being escorted down the hall approached on the other side of the hall. One of the inmates yelled out to me, "Pastor, tell me how I can get saved!" I have had the privilege of leading lots of men to Christ, but I have not had many start out that way. This particular inmate was apparently very ripe and ready for harvest. We see in the Bible a number of similar cases.

For example, in Acts 16, Paul and Silas were in prison at Philippi, and were praying and singing hymns at midnight and the other prisoners were listening to them. All at once there was an earthquake and all the doors were opened and the chains unlocked. This was no ordinary earthquake or event, this had God's handwriting all over it. When the jailer, who was asleep, woke up and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself when Paul yelled out to him, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!" The jailer, trembling with fear, fell down before Paul and Silas and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas shared the gospel with him and he and his household all got saved.

(Acts 16:28-32) "But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!" {29} And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, {30} and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" {31} They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." {32} And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house."

In our passage today, Jesus had been in Perea, the land beyond the Jordan, and He is now heading towards Jericho, and then on to Jerusalem. As He was leaving, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus does not give him a simple answer and get him to pray a sinner's prayer and go on. There is no easy-believism with Jesus. Jesus tells Him what is required. He tells him that no one is good except God. He tells him that he must keep all the commandments. When the young man replies that he has kept all the commandments, making himself out to be perfect, Jesus then exposes the idol in his life that he must repent of in order to follow Jesus. We will see the gospel message beautifully woven into this account. Our passage is about Jesus' conversation with this man about how to have eternal life, and then His follow-up conversation with His disciples about eternal life.

What Shall I Do To Inherit Eternal Life

1. Understand that God is a holy God (Mark 10:17-18)
2. Understand that all have sinned and are separated from God (Mark 10:19-21)
3. Understand that Jesus is God's provision for our sins (Mark 10:17-18, 21)
4. Repent and follow the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 10:22)

Conclusion and Applications (Mark 10:23-31)

(Mark 10:17-31) "As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall 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, I have kept all these things from my youth up." {21} Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." {22} But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property. {23} And Jesus, looking around, *said to His disciples, "How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!" {24} The disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus *answered again and *said to them, "Children, how hard 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 man to enter the kingdom of God." {26} They were even more astonished and said to Him, "Then who can be saved?" {27} Looking at them, Jesus *said, "With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God." {28} Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, 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 farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, {30} but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. {31} "But many *who are* first will be last, and the last, first."

1. Understand that God is a holy God (Mark 10:17-18)

Jesus has been in Perea, the land beyond the Jordan. He has been confronted by the Pharisees about divorce. They were trying to trip Him up about divorce. Then, people began bringing their children to Jesus so that He could lay hands on them and bless them. When Jesus saw this, He was indignant and corrected them. He said that the kingdom of God belonged to such as these. Then, He set out to go on His journey. He is on His way to Jerusalem, where He will be rejected, suffer, be crucified, and then be raised from the dead. That is the journey that He is setting out on. As He set out, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

(Mark 10:17) "As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

Let's look at this man for just a minute. First, He came to Jesus. He must have heard something about Him. He calls Jesus, "Good Teacher," so He may have heard Jesus teach. He was drawn to Jesus and came to Jesus. This wealthy young man had money. He had position and respect. He knew God's commandments, and yet he knew that there was an emptiness inside of him. He was missing something and so he came to Jesus. He was searching for what was missing. He knew the right question to ask, and the right person to ask. He was trying to fill that void in his life. God created us in His image so that we might have fellowship with Him. This young man was religious, but he did not have a relationship with God. So, he heard that Jesus was in the area and he went to Jesus. He did not just come to Jesus, He ran up to Jesus. There is an urgency and a determination to see Jesus. Jesus may have been ahead of Him and he may have run to catch up with Jesus.

The second thing about this man was that he knelt before Jesus. He humbled himself before Jesus. He is respectful to Jesus and honors him by kneeling before Him. This is something that a servant would do to a master or a person would do in the presence of a king or ruler. We know from Philippians 2 that one day every knee will bow before Jesus, because He is exalted above every name. This man humbled Himself and knelt before Jesus.

(Phil 2:9-11) “For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, { 10 } so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, { 11 } and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Third, this man was religious and knowledgeable of the Scriptures. He was probably Jewish, because Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” We also know that he had been trained up in the ways of the Lord from his youth, because he said, “I have kept all these things from my youth up.” When we look at the parallel passage in Luke 18, we find that he is a ruler. He was not a Pharisee, but he was a ruler. He had a measure of authority. Some of the commentaries say that he was a ruler in the synagogue, meaning that he had attained some degree of rank through his service, giving, etc. This would make sense since he was knowledgeable about the commandments of God.

(Mark 10:19-20) “You know the commandments... {20} And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up.”

(Luke 18:18) “A ruler questioned Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

Fourth, we know from verse twenty-two that he was wealthy; he owned much property. We can't buy our way into heaven. Great wealth won't fill the void in our lives. More possessions cannot fill that void. Even though he owned much property, he knew something was missing in his life.

(Mark 10:19-22) “You know the commandments... {20} And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up.... {22} But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.”

Now that we have taken a look at this young man, let's look at the conversation that he has with Jesus. He called Jesus, “Good Teacher.” When men look at one another from man's perspective we can say that someone is good. However, when we look at men from God's perspective we see a very different perspective.

(Mark 10:17-18) “As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall 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.’”

Jesus responded by saying, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.” Jesus is quoting from Psalm 14, where David wrote that “there is no one who does good...there is no one who does good, not even one.” God is the only one who is good, righteous, and holy. Jesus wants this young man to understand that there is a difference between a holy God and a sinful man. The second thing that Jesus is forcing this young man to consider is the deity of Christ. If only God is good, and Jesus is good, then Jesus must be God.

(Ps 14:1-3) “The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good. {2} The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. {3} They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

2. Understand that all have sinned and are separated from God (Mark 10:19-21)

Then, Jesus said, “you know the commandments,” and He quoted some of the commandments. Jesus is answering the young man’s question about how to have eternal life. Since only God is good, to enter into the kingdom of God, you must be holy like God. You must have kept all the commandments.

(Mark 10:19) “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.’”

Jesus is not only answering his question, but He is also trying to help the young man see that he is a sinner, and has not kept all the commandments. Notice that Jesus does not start with the first four commandments. Jesus quotes the commandments that pertain to our relationships with one another, not our relationship with God. The young man answered that he has kept all these things. He has not murdered anyone. He has not committed adultery. He has not stolen. He has not been a false witness. He has not defrauded. He has honored his mother and father. The young man saw himself as good. In Proverbs 21:2, Solomon wrote that “Every man’s way is right to his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the hearts.” This young man’s ways were right in his own eyes.

(Mark 10:20) “And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up.”

(Pr 21:2) “Every man's way is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts.”

The young man had obviously not heard Jesus’ sermon on the mount where he talked about murdering in our heart by calling someone a good-for-nothing, or being angry with a brother. The young man answered looking only at the outside actions, not the sins of the heart, and in his mind, he is good.

(Matt 5:21-22) “You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' {22} But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty *enough to go* into the fiery hell.”

Jesus has already quoted Psalm 14 to the young man, and it makes it very clear that there is not anybody good in God’s sight. When Paul quotes Psalm 14, he concludes by saying, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” This young man did not have a true understanding of his plight, that he was a sinner. He saw himself as a good man, one who had kept all the commandments.

(Rom 3:10-23) “as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; {11} THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; {12} ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE....{23} for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

Some people need some help to see their true condition. Jesus then tells him to sell all that he possessed and give to the poor, and then to come follow Him. Jesus knew what was in the heart

of this rich young man. Jesus knew that the commandments, and that we are commanded to love God with all our heart and not to have any idols. Jesus knew this man's idol was money. In a very gentle and discreet way, Jesus has put his finger on the sin in this man's life. Jesus did not preach an easy believism. He told the young man to get rid of this idol and then come follow Him. Jesus' message has been consistent. If we are going to follow Him, we must deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus.

(Mark 10:21-22) "Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." {22} But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property."

I want to back up for just a minute. Jesus looked at the young man, and the NASB says that he felt a love for him, and then said what He said. When God looks at us, He does not look at the external things like man does; God looks at the heart. The Lord told Samuel when he was looking at Jesse's sons not to look at the external appearance, because He does not see as man sees, "for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." Jesus was looking right into the man's heart. Jesus saw exactly what was in his heart. Jesus saw the idolatry. When God looks at us, He sees our hearts. He sees everything, but more importantly, He looks at our hearts. This young man could not hide his sin from God, and we cannot hide our sins from God either. The best thing we can do is to acknowledge or confess our sins to Him, and ask Him to forgive us.

(1 Sam 16:7) "But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God *sees* not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'"

Jesus not only looked at the young man, it says that He felt a love for him. I don't think that is a good translation. Love is not a feeling. We may feel compassion, sad, happy, or angry, but love is not a feeling. The KJV says, "Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him..." Jesus loved him. The Greek word is *agapao* (Strong's G25), and this is a verb. It is something that Jesus did. It is an action that Jesus took.

(Mark 10:21a KJV) "Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him..."

Paul gave us some revelation and understanding about love in 1 Corinthians 13. In the first few verses he spoke about the surpassing value of love. In verses four through seven, he spoke about the character of love. In the last few verses he spoke about the duration of love. I want to speak a minute on the definition and character of love. Love is patient. Paul is defining love, and one of the definitions and characteristics of love is that it is patient. "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." Jesus is patient with this young man who is blind to his own sin. Jesus is patient and does not want this young man to perish in his idolatry. Jesus is not arrogant, but is humble and gentle with this man. Jesus is demonstrating love to this young man.

(1 Cor 13:4) "Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant,"

(2 Pet 3:9) “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”

But love does not hide the truth. Jesus loved this young self-righteous sinner enough to speak the truth to him. Love does not shrink back from speaking truth. In Ephesians 4:15, Paul wrote that we are to speak the truth in love. Jesus loved this young man, even though he was full of idolatry and greed. He loved you and I when we were sinners. God so loved the world, the world that was full of sin and idolatry, and He sent His only begotten Son, that is Jesus, so that this rich young ruler would not perish, but have eternal life. This young man asked how to have eternal life, and Jesus is being patient with him, not wishing him to perish, but to have eternal life. And Jesus speaks the truth in love to him, telling him to sell all that he possessed, give to the poor, and then to come follow Him. That is what we call tough love. He spoke a hard thing for this young man, but He spoke it to him in love. Jesus was gentle, meek, humble, and patient with this young man. Jesus loves us and is patient with us also, not wanting for any of us to perish but to have eternal life.

(John 3:16) “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

(Eph 4:15) “but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,”

This man’s idol was his money. As a young man, my idol was golf. That was what I put my affection, time, energy into. It was my goal and pursuit. It was more important to me than anything or anyone else. It was an idol. Anything that we put before God is an idol. For me it was golf. For some it is money. For others it might be sex, drugs, or other pleasures of the world. God told me that I had to choose between golf and Him. This happened at Waterwood National Golf Club at the 1976 Southwest Conference Championship. It was a really hard thing for me, and I struggled, but at the end of the day, I chose to follow God. My life radically changed after that. God allowed me to play golf for a living, after I had surrendered it to Him.

Danny Daniels came and spoke to us last year about the woman at the well. While he was here, we were speaking in the parking lot and he told me that before he became a Christian he was a rock musician, a rock star you might say. God pursued Danny, just like he did me, and He gave Danny the same choice, your music or Me. Danny chose to follow Jesus. As soon as Danny agreed to put aside his music, God told him that he would now use his music to glorify God.

God told me to lay down my golf and follow Him. He told Danny to lay down his music and follow Him. He told this rich young man to lay down his riches and follow Him. He says the same thing to each and everyone of us. Is there anything between you and the Lord? He wants you to lay it down and follow Him. Is there anything that hinders you from serving Him with all your heart? The Lord wants you to remove anything that hinders you from loving and serving Him with all your heart.

3. Understand that Jesus is God’s provision for our sins (Mark 10:17-18, 21)

Jesus told the rich young ruler to sell all his possessions and give to the poor and then to follow Him. Jesus was answering his question about how to have eternal life; it is in following Christ. Jesus’ first response to the young man in verse eighteen was, “Why do you call Me good? No

one is good except God alone.” Jesus was the Son of God and Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus is the only hope of salvation. Jesus wanted the young man to recognize that He is the Messiah.

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

Second, Jesus wanted the young man to recognize that to have eternal life, he needed to follow Jesus. There is no other way. Notice that the young man asked, “what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” It was not in doing something, it was in a relationship with Jesus that we have eternal life. It is in a covenant relationship that our sins are covered, forgiven, wiped clean, and that we become the righteousness of God. All the good works cannot save us; it is in following Christ. Jesus said that he needed to come follow Him. This young man had to accept that his salvation was through following Jesus. It was not in good works, but in following Jesus.

(Mark 10:21) “Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

Paul wrote in Titus 3:5 that God saved us, “not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.” Similarly, in Ephesians 2:8-9, Paul wrote that we are saved by grace through faith, and that not of ourselves. God’s gift of eternal life is not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. There was nothing that this rich young ruler could do to earn his way into heaven. It is only by God’s mercy and forgiveness through Christ that we can enter into eternal life. There is nothing that you or I can do to earn our way. We must receive the free gift of God by faith.

(Tit 3:5) “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,”

(Eph 2:8-9) “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; {9} not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Jesus told the young man to follow Him. In John 14:6, Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” We have eternal life with the Father by a relationship with Christ. We must go through Jesus. The young man needed to follow Christ.

(John 14:6) “Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

Peter preached in Acts 4:12 that there is no other name given among men by which we must be saved. There is no other way to heaven, but through Jesus. Jesus told the young man that he needed to repent of his idolatry and follow Jesus.

(Acts 4:12) “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

4. Repent and follow the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 10:22)

It is not enough to know that only God is holy and that we are sinners who are separated from God. It is not enough to know who Jesus is, that He is the Messiah, the Son of God. It is not enough to know, we must repent and follow the Lord Jesus Christ. There is a decision that must be made. Unfortunately, when the rich young ruler heard these words, he was saddened. These were not the words that he was looking for. He was doing good things. He was giving alms and keeping the Sabbath. He thought he was doing good, and he wanted Jesus to give him a word of affirmation. But no, that is not what Jesus did. Jesus went to the heart of the matter, and the young man had an idol in his life that he needed to remove, and then to follow Christ.

(Mark 10:22) “But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.”

It was hard for me to be willing to give up golf. All of my dreams, aspirations, goals, and striving were to play golf. When God asked me to lay it down for Him, it was difficult. When God told Danny to lay down his music career, that was a difficult thing. The good news for Danny and I was that we made that choice to put away the idols in our life and follow Christ. We do not know the final outcome of this young man. We know that his immediate response was to go away grieving. The first time that I heard the gospel I was not ready to receive Christ. Over time, God softened my heart and drew me to Himself. Perhaps this young man’s heart softened over time and maybe he repented of his idolatry and followed Christ. We will find out one day.

All of us have the same choice to make that this young man faced. Do we recognize that God is a holy God and that we are sinners and separated from God by our sins? Or, do we think that we are basically good and better than the people around us, and that we will somehow get in when God grades on the curve? Do we understand that we cannot earn our way to heaven? Do we understand that there is nothing that we can do to wipe away our sins? Do we know that it is only by the grace of God by the sacrifice that Jesus made on our behalf that we can have eternal life? Are we willing to repent of our sins and ask Jesus to be Lord of our life? That was the question for the young man, and that is the question for all of us.

Conclusion and Applications (Mark 10:23-31)

In Mark 10:23-31, we have the wrap-up and debrief of what just happened. The young man went away grieving, leaving just the disciples with Jesus. Jesus turned to His disciples and said, “How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!” Whether your wealth is in your golf skills like me, or in your musical talent, like Danny, or whether it is your only son, like Abraham, we must be willing to put aside everything and follow Jesus. The greater the wealth, the greater the difficulty to give up.

(Mark 10:23) “And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, ‘How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!’”

The disciples were amazed at His words. Their facial expressions probably reflected their shock and amazement. They may have even looked a little puzzled, so Jesus answered again and said to them, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!” Then, He gave an example to them to consider. He said, “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

In the Jewish writings, called the Talmud, the same expression was used, except that an elephant was used instead of a camel. There were not elephants in Israel, but they did have camels. There are different theories about the meaning of the expression. The Jewish word for rope is spelled similarly and some think it was a typographical error. I do not believe that. Others have said that there was a sheep gate that was called a needle and that a camel would have to stoop down to get through it. Most scholars reject this and say there was no such gate referred to as a needle. (There was a sheep gate.) So, I agree with the commentaries that there was not a typographical error or needle gate. Jesus was saying that it is impossible for a camel to go through the eye of a needle. It is impossible for a wealthy man to get into heaven through his riches. It is impossible for anyone to get into the kingdom of God on their own works, merits, or riches.

(Mark 10:24-25) “The disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, ‘Children, how hard 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 man to enter the kingdom of God.’”

The disciples were even more astonished, but they got the picture. They said, “Then who can be saved?” They understood that Jesus said it was impossible. Jesus answered, “With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.” God has made it possible for you and I to be saved, but that not of ourselves. It is impossible for us; it is by the grace of God.

(Mark 10:26-27) “They were even more astonished and said to Him, ‘Then who can be saved?’ {27} Looking at them, Jesus said, “With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.”

Peter then remarked that they had left everything and followed Jesus. When Jesus told them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men,” they left their nets and followed Jesus. Fishing was their life, like golf was my life. Jesus then responded, “There is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last, first.”

(Mark 10:28-31) “Peter began to say to Him, “Behold, 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 farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake, {30} but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. {31} “But many *who are* first will be last, and the last, first.”

When I gave up my golf, God gave it back to me. When Danny put his music career on the altar, God gave it back to him. When Abraham put Isaac on the altar, God provided another sacrifice in its place. He made Abraham’s descendants like the dust of the earth. Whatever we give up to follow Christ, He will give back to us many times more in this life and the life to come.

Introduction (Acts 16:28-32, Mark 10:17-31)

- 1. Understand that God is a holy God** (Mark 10:17-22, Phil 2:9-11, Luke 18:18, Ps 14:1-3)

- 2. Understand that all have sinned and are separated from God** (Mark 10:19-21, Pr 21:2, Matt 5:21-22, Rom 3:10-23, 1 Sam 16:7, 1 Cor 13:4, 2 Pet 3:9, John 3:16, Eph 4:15)

- 3. Understand that Jesus is God's provision for our sins** (Mark 10:17-18, 21, Tit 3:5, Eph 2:8-9 John 14:6, Acts 4:12)

- 4. Repent and follow the Lord Jesus Christ** (Mark 10:22)

Conclusion and Applications (Mark 10:23-31)