

Mark 10

Read Mark 10: Every chapter in the bible has something to do with the prior chapter and the following chapter. Obviously chapter 10 is a follow on to what we read in 9; and leading to what we see in 11.

The Setting

Jesus is transitioning from a mountaintop revelation and heavenly fellowship, down to Jerusalem and his triumphant entry. Could it be that his conversation in chapter nine with Moses and Elijah in front of Peter, James and John was to discuss the completion of the Law and the prophecies? The Law points to the holiness of God and how we can only be sinless in Christ's blood. The prophets painted pictures of what the Messiah would do in his first and second coming.

When we visualize Jesus entering into Jerusalem on a young donkey we might shed a tear. His humility as the Lamb of God is unparalleled. We focus on him being betrayed and brutalized by the ones he was trying to save. One thing that we seldom discuss is that this was the biggest spiritual military victory of all times. He let Satan and his minions believe they had him on the ropes; but it was a voluntary assignment.

No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.” (John 10:18)

In reality, we will sometimes look like alligator bait, to draw out the true intentions of our enemies. That way when God's trap shuts everyone complicit is caught red-handed. Jesus neutered Satan and his army in his resurrection. The bible is jam-packed with improbable rescues.

He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. (Colossians 2)

The Situation

Jesus is differentiating how religion has betrayed and completely misrepresented God; and how God is looking for more simplicity than that. God wants intellectual honesty. Children are less double-minded.

As Jesus settles in to teach the locals. Jesus has no issues with the common man who is trying to better himself and open himself to God's help. His issues are with the knowingly-belligerent men who are trying to intercept any potential

connections between God and man. We have to be careful about injecting ourselves and self-importance.

The Pharisees do not have true inquiries. They are traps. These are no-win questions. The questions were designed to portray him taking an unpopular position or as an insurrectionist. Jesus was pro-marriage, but divorce had become more popular. The Jewish religionists had written all kinds of books that were commentaries on the bible. They wrote down what is allowed for divorce and what was not. It was a complete departure from scripture and God's intention. For example, a man could divorce his wife for being a bad cook. Jesus turned it around on those entrapping him. He showed the crowd that the Pharisees did not know their bible very well, namely what Moses even intended.

Jesus enjoyed playing with kids and teaching them bible stories. It is far better to put a young life on the right track than to fix the results of a series of bad decisions.

A man approached Jesus looking for eternal life, but maybe not realizing that he was a lot more than a teacher or a prophet. This man was bound to his holdings and accumulated wealth. What would have happened to this man if he gave away the things that preoccupied him night and day? That is the story of Job, all over again. Job was a worry-wart obsessing over the prospect of losing what he had...until he actually did. Afterwards, he had peace of mind to accompany even more family and more wealth.

It is much harder for a person who is experiencing success to fully give themselves to Christ. A down and out person has no real other options.

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 1)

Jesus lays out clearly what is coming next. His followers were not too enthused about hearing of his death. They had been thinking that had would lead an uprising over Rome. It was slowly sinking in that all of this future abundance may not be on earth. James and John asked to have positions of influence in heaven. This upset the others that they would try to muscle in on the best spots in heaven. He

gives them a hint that the more you serve others and put them above yourself will elevate your position in heaven.

The Jews saw the cripples and blind as potentially sinners reaping what they had sown. Jesus needed to correct this view as well.