

RADICAL

Part 6 – The Gospel Demands Radical Abandonment

Mark 10:17-31

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¹⁷And 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?" ¹⁸And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹You 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.'" ²⁰And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." ²¹And 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." ²²Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

²³And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." ²⁸Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹Jesus 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, ³⁰who 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. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last first." Mark 10:17-31

1. A Radical Approach...

Jesus' call to salvation demands total surrender.

- Salvation is never a matter of external reformation.
- Salvation is always a matter of internal transformation.
- Jesus is not merely a respectable teacher.
- Jesus is the sovereign Lord.

2. A Radical Affection...

Jesus calls us to give sacrificially because He loves us.

¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." ¹⁶And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.' ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God." Luke 12:15-21

³²"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Luke 12:32-34

- He is a Shepherd who protects us.
- He is a Father who delights in us.

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Matthew 25:34

¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. Romans 8:16-17

- He is a King who provides for us.

3. A Radical Command...

Jesus gives commands, not considerations.

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." (v. 21)

- As followers of Christ, we do not consider options.
- As followers of Christ, we obey.

4. A Radical Reward...

Jesus does not want to strip us of our pleasure; He wants to satisfy us with His treasure.

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Matthew 13:44

- Which do we want?
 - Short-term treasures we can't keep or long-term treasures we can't lose?
 - Unpredictable investments or inexhaustible savings?
- Where is our heart?
 - Our use of money is a sure indicator of our present spiritual condition.

5. A Radical Loss...

Love of possessions will inevitably and ultimately rob us of the joy for which we have been created. (v. 22)

- His eyes were blind.
- His face was sad.
- His hands were full.

6. A Radical Freedom...

Jesus frees us from our bondage to ourselves and our stuff. (v. 28)

- We are free to go wherever He calls.
- We are free to give whatever He asks.