

**This Is The Way
Find and Follow Jesus
Mark 10:17-31**

Introduction: Our Journey This Fall

- Nine Strategic Steps
- Relationship vs. Religion

Jesus Emphasizes Transformation

As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Mark 10:17 NLT)

An Eager But Misguided Seeker

Described: He is rich, young, and successful. Everything he does suggests he knows he has been trying his best but still wonders if this is enough. Is there something more that is necessary to ensure that he will have eternal life?

Understand: Jesus doesn't deny being good. He does reset the standard for goodness.

Notice: There are two factors showing the young man's quest was off course

- 1st Factor: Consider The Jewish View of Salvation
- 2nd Factor: Status Is Considered a Sign of God's Favor

Human Pursuits Are inadequate

We should commend this young seeker for his desire to inherit eternal life. He is sincere, but his assumptions are wrong.

- 1st Assumption: He assumes goodness can be achieved

"Teacher," the man replied, "I've obeyed all these commandments since I was young." (Mark 10:20 NLT)

- 2nd Assumption: He assumes eternal life can be earned

Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. (Mark 10:21 NLT)

Note: Jesus doesn't challenge the young man's faulty standard of goodness. Instead, Jesus exposes the core issue in his life. He had turned his wealth into an idol he worships and serves.

"There is still one thing you haven't done," he told him. "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (Mark 10:21 NLT)

At this the man's face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. (Mark 10:22)

Conclusion: "It's My Way or the Highway"

"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money." (Luke 16:13 NLT)

"You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it." (Matthew 7:13-14 NLT)

The Point: You can pursue the kingdom of God or you can chase after whatever else you want, like wealth, but you can't have both. It's one or the other.

- 1st Alternative: If your highest priority is to be rich, prepare yourself for dreadful consequences.
- 2nd Alternative: If you sacrifice the pursuit of other gods (wealth) for the kingdom, prepare yourself for numerous rewards.

Question: Are you willing to give up what is required to find and follow Jesus?