

**“Understanding Kingdom Realities”**  
**“A Journey with Jesus” Part 17**  
**Mark 10:13-34**

**1. Powerbrokers and the powerless**

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.  
Mark 10:13-16

- The disciples probably thought they were protecting Jesus by keeping the children and their families away.
- The disciples had fallen prey to prominent cultural ideas.
- The kingdom of God is for the weak and powerless, not the entitled and self-righteous.
- The kingdom of heaven is a gift of God's grace, not a reward to be earned.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.  
Ephesians 2:8-10

**2. Wealth: The Sadness of Success.**

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'" "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 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 amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"  
Mark 10:17-26

- Rich, young and powerful; most of us would succumb to the temptations of having too much.

- The disciples were shocked by Jesus' declaration about wealth.
- Cultural ideas once again lead the disciples astray.
- Money is a marvelous servant, but a terrible master.

*The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.*

Matthew 13:22

### **3. Salvation: The Impossible and the Possible.**

*Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." Peter said to him, "We have left everything to follow you!" "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."*

Mark 10:27-31

- The kingdom of heaven is a gift of God's grace, not a reward to be earned.
- Viewing things from an eternal perspective, many who are what the world considers "first" in this life will be last, or left out of the next.
- Those who are first in their own eyes will be last in God's eyes.
- Those who live their lives as servants will be rewarded as first!

### **4. The Mission: Jesus predicts His Death a Third Time.**

*They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."*

Mark 10:32-34

- Jesus' destination is Jerusalem. He is still leading the way.
- Each announcement of His death only added to the disciples' bewilderment.

*Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame.* Isaiah 50:7

- In this third announcement, Jesus fills in more details for the disciples. The place, what would occur, the part Gentiles would play, and for the fourth time, He promises His resurrection.

*As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what "rising from the dead" meant. Mark 9:9-10*