

HOW TO GET RICH
Mark 10:17-31

I. A GREAT QUESTION

- A. *“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” (Mark 10:17)*
- B. Setting Out on a Journey.
 - 1. It was a great question presented to a great person that packed a powerful punch.
 - 2. The irony is that the eternal life he is seeking is found at the end of a journey he is unwilling to take.
- C. Who Is This Man?
 - 1. Luke calls him rich, and Matthew says he was young. All agree that he had “great possessions.”
 - 2. He is us.

II. A SHOCKING ANSWER

- A. *And Jesus looking upon him loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” (Mark 10:21)*
- B. Rejecting the Redeemer.
 - 1. This is the only example of someone rejecting a call from Jesus.
 - 2. You must invest your assets in kingdom commodities!
 - 3. “Over the past thirty years, our material standard of living has skyrocketed, with no measurable increase in any standards of happiness or peace. Just the opposite ... The more you strive for success, fame, money, and power, the less likely you are to be happy.” (Leonard Sweet)
- C. Radical Separation from Your Addiction Is Required.
 - 1. Self-interest. “Just one more time, Lord!” Just one more drink, one more affair, one more shady deal, and one more full barn.
 - 2. Self-control. “When I get my life together and everything is under control, Lord.” When my business is booming, when the kids are grown, when I am no longer hurt or angry.
 - 3. Self-pity. “Why did this happen to me, Lord?” When all my questions are answered. Why the disease, why the divorce, why the tornado?

III. A WONDERFUL PROMISE

- A. *“Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.” (27)*
 - 1. If you try to pull it off by yourself, no one will be saved.
 - 2. The answer lies at the end of my journey.
- B. A Positive Promise.
 - 1. Peter said, “Lord, we have left everything to follow you.”
 - 2. Jesus said, “I promise you, for everything you have given up, I will give you much more. Rejoice!”

Prayer Concerns: Members – Burney Biesel, Alton Creasy, J.W. Davis, Marie Davis, Leona Evans, Dorothy Miles, **Jim Mohead**, Carolyn Perkins, Jim Prince, Carol Webb ... **Friends** – Melinda Banks, **Henrietta Beckmann**, Meryl Broussard, Pat Bryan, Alma Jo Churchill, Doyle Davis, John Fumbanks, Brandon Funderburk, **Margaret Hayes**, Ed Henson, Gary Hinson, Judy Malaquias, **Connie Overton**, Violet Stout, Durward Webb ...

Christian Sympathy is extended to **Carol Harris and family** in the death of her mother, **Sarah Clark**, on Sunday, October 14, and to **Greg Moore and Mike Harris and their families** in the death of their aunt, **Marie Swanner**, who died on Sunday, October 14.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Holy God, we come into your presence in need of time. We need time to meditate, time to slow down, time to reflect, and time to be with the Word and to be with you. We are often so lost that we cannot find our way out of the darkness of our lives. Help us to leave behind our pain, find peace to ease our anxiety, and destroy our despair so that we may come to you fully and completely.

Loving God, help us to approach your Word and you will with our hearts as well as our minds. Help us to center our lives on you so that we may never be lost again. Hear us now as we take a few moments to recall in silence the events of the past week.

We remember the things we did last week: the things we did well, and the things we did not do well. Hear our prayer... (*pray silently*)

We remember the things that happened to us: the things that brought us pain, and the events that brought us joy. Hear our prayer ... (*pray silently*)

In our meditation, we mark an end to the week gone by. We offer it to you, knowing that with its imperfections and incompleteness it is accepted, and blessed, and forgiven, just as each of us is accepted, blessed, and forgiven. Hear us now as we pray the prayer you taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

MARK 10:17-31

And 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?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not kill, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have observed from my youth." And Jesus looking upon him loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." At that saying his countenance fell, and he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them 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." And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God." Peter began to say to him, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you." 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 lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who 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. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

October 28	<i>When Less Is More</i>	Mark 11:38-44
	Youth Sunday	
November 4	<i>Giving the Best</i>	Luke 15:1-10
	All Saints' Sunday	

On the Radio (1450 AM):

October 28	<i>Searching for Satisfaction</i>	Luke 12:22-31
November 4	<i>The Demands of Discipleship</i>	Mark 10:17-27