

## **THE DEMANDS OF DISCIPLESHIP**

### **Mark 10:17-27**

#### **I. DO WE LOVE THE LORD?**

- 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. The Acid Test for Love.
  - 1. We love ice cream and the St. Louis Cardinals and UT football. Do we love Jesus in the same way?
  - 2. The acid test for our love is sometimes how much we have been willing to give up.
  - 3. Kierkegaard said: "Christ has many admirers but few followers.
- C. Let's Get Serious.
  - 1. We talk more about love than any previous generation.
  - 2. But it's shallow love. It's narcissistic love, selfish love. It's "I love you for what you can do for me" love.

#### **II. THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE**

- A. *"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." (Mark 10:25)*
- B. Breaking the First Commandment.
  - 1. The real issue is not money. The issue is who or what is your god?
  - 2. Martin Luther says that everyone has a god. There is no such thing as an atheist.
  - 3. Whatever we most love having and most fear losing is our god.
- C. What Must I Do?
  - 1. As long as we ask, "What must I do," we will never make it.
  - 2. Then we are like that camel stuck in the eye of the needle.

#### **III. THE SECRET OF SALVATION**

- 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." (Mark 10:26-27)*
- B. Mission Impossible.
  - 1. What is impossible for us, for the rich young ruler, for the disciples, is possible for God!
  - 2. That is why he came into the world. To pull us through the eye of a needle.
- C. The Lord's Table.
  - 1. Jesus embraces chronic idolaters like you and me.
  - 2. There is no sin too great. There is no doubt too deep. There is no crime so grave that God cannot forgive.

**Prayer Concerns: Members** – Burney Biesel, Sarah Clark, Mac Kerr, **Laura Hart**, Anne Miller ... **Friends** – Bobby Atkins, Madison Brooke Binkley, Ed Bowen, **Lane Brasfield**, Erin Crawford, Helen Davis, Jane Davis, Ruby Dudley, Kenny Frazee, Bonnie Hart, Jim Hixon, Benette Hobday, Linda Lindner, Joanne Locklear, Macy Morgan, Bertie Owen, Ricky Petty, Shirley Rice, **Jennie Stafford** ...

## MARK 10:17-27

### PASTORAL PRAYER

Gracious God, we find ourselves surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses. Today we remember in a special way those who have gone before us and have left a legacy far more important than money. We remember relatives and friends who have taught us right and wrong, and have demonstrated the secrets of successful living. We are grateful for sacrifices made by others, some by total strangers. In defense of the faith, in defense of our country, in defense of our freedoms, they were willing to make the supreme sacrifice on behalf of others.

As we think of those who have gone before us, we pray that we may leave a legacy worthy of our calling by Jesus Christ. Now and then we've had our visions of it – of the people we might be, that we sometimes dream of being. Here and there we've heard echoes of what our lives together could be – as people, as families, as a church. We've had our moments. There have been moments when we've been braver and wiser and kinder than we thought we knew how to be. We have within us so much more of this power than we ever spend, a power that comes from you. We are such misers of miracles, and such stingy guardians of grace.

O God, if we have a long way to go, you know we have also come a long way. As we think of those who have gone before us, we pray that we may leave a legacy worthy of our calling, and that the world will be a better place because we have passed through. This we pray through the one who came to show us the way, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (to be sung): **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.**

And as he was setting out on his journey, a man came 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."

### SERMON SCHEDULE

#### In the Sanctuary:

November 12	<i>Don't Just Sit There</i>	Mark 10:46-52
November 19	<i>The Best That We Have</i>	Mark 12:38-44
November 26	<i>Christ Will Come in the Clouds</i>	Mark 13:1-8

#### On the Radio (1450 AM):

November 12	<i>A Few Things to Forget</i>	Philippians 3:12-16
November 19	<i>One of Our Best Words</i>	Luke 17:11-19
November 26	<i>I Shall Become Myself</i>	Exodus 3:1-15