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| 1  Mark 10:13-31  09/24/23  “Child-Like Faith”  INTRO:  We enjoy and find it amusing when we see bad guys and their evil plans get ruined by things or people we least expect/weakness.  Precisely what Lord does Matthew 21 (triumphal entry)  Little children shouting in temple:  “Hosanna to the Son of David”  But chief priests and scribes indignant and said to Jesus  “Do you hear what these children are saying?”  Jesus said to them: “Yes have you never read, OUT OF THE MOUTH OF INFANTS AND NURSING BABIES YOU HAVE PREPARED PRAISE FOR YOURSELF.” | 2  Jesus was essentially saying,  “Have you never read your Bibles?”  “Don’t you know that what these children are shouting is a fulfillment of Psalm 8?  Ps. 8:2  “From the mouth of infants and nursing babies You have established strength Because of your adversaries, To make the enemy and revengeful cease.”  Pharisees = adversaries but silenced by babies  Funny and ironic picture of salvation  THESIS:  Today’s passage we will see another irony in book of Mark that not those who are sophisticated who enter the kingdom of God, but those who are like children who will enter the kingdom of God. |
| 3  REVIEW:  Last week we learned the difficult truth about the standard for divorce and remarriage.  Man twisted marriage but it is to be permanent, only broken in death  Now Jesus focuses on children, continuing theme of family  but…  also serves to contrast with what follows  Let’s begin Verse 13 (read)  After long days of traveling, doing miracles, they were trying to protect their Lord. They saw children as a hinderance  Offered nothing to the Lord  Whatever reason Jesus “indignant” with them | 4  “Indignant” occurs only here in NT  “much” + “to grieve” = “much grieved”  Why was Jesus irate at disciples?  Because Verses 14-16 (read)  Jesus said shocking statement  -children were not seen as capable of attaining  salvation  But Jesus made it clear that children were capable of attaining salvation and understanding it.  Children are commended not because of what they possess but because of what they lack  Children are constantly in need and in dependence to adults and have nothing to bring.  -That is precisely the point |
| 5  If you similar don’t come to Christ in this way…  If you don’t come as needy and dependent on Lord, you will not enter the kingdom of God  Hymn, “nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling”  You know sometimes people say to me  “I’m not smart or intelligent, I just believe the Bible”  -They feel ashamed that they are not smarter  -But that’s a good thing!  The dumber you are the better!  It is often those distinguished professors in these bible colleges and seminaries with many letters after their name that are the furthest from the kingdom  “invent” “creative ways to interpret Bible” | 6  Less likely that pride will get in your way  Salvation of young children is a “deathblow to legalism”  “deathblow” to Pharisees because of their entire system built on legalism  “deathblow” to those in Lk. 18:9 who “trusted in themselves that they were righteous and treated others with contempt”  Now this brings up the question of children’s salvation and age of accountability  Is there an age of accountability? Yes  Do we know? No  -Different for each child  Some early, others later it depends |
| 7  Children who die before age of accountability?  They go to heaven  Clearest text is 2 Samuel 12  Prophet Nathan said David’s child will die  -child died on seventh day  2 Samuel 12:23 he was going where the child was  -David was saved, so that means the child is in  heaven  Does not mean they do not have sin or original sin  Ps. 51 = original sin for babies  But…God does not ordain a sinner to hell for what he doesn’t know, only based on what he does know  People go to hell and even young ones who are at the age of accountability go to hell because they are fully responsible and accountable to their sins | 8  God is not the author of your sin or unbelief, you are the author of your sin and unbelief  But take comfort that if you lost a child (abortion, miscarriage, some other reason) he or she is in heaven waiting for you.  Also, Gospel should give you great hope:  -You don’t need to be a scholar  Also when a child shows interest in following Christ  -Encourage that  -Fan those flames  Jesus is lover of children, so should we be  Every time you see a child trusting in Christ, it should remind you to have child-like faith in the Lord  Verse 17 Jesus goes on journey (read vv. 17-22)  Know from parallel account that he was young and rich |
| 9  V. 22 Owned much “property” = real estate  He was ruler of synagogue = fastidious observer of Mosaic Law  “good teacher” = unusual  Rabbis rarely called “good” that because it was title for God  Jesus essentially is saying “Who told you or how do you know that I am God? Don’t you know that only God is good?”  Jesus is testing this man’s faith  So he gives him ten commandments  -But notice it’s horizontal, not vertical  Was he being genuine or lying/hypocritical?  Likely it was genuine like Paul in Phil. 3:6  “as to righteousness under the Law, blameless” | 10  Paul was a true Pharisee in a sense of obedience to the “T”  However Jesus in act of love told him his true condition (read v. 21)  This man’s god or idol was his wealth/possessions  Unlike child who owned nothing, he owned everything. He had the whole world  What this man failed to realize was these horizontal commands is truly fulfilled when you love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.  If you love God with your whole being,  you won’t murder  you won’t commit adultery  you won’t defraud, steal, life or dishonor your parents |
| 11  Failed to realize Gal. 5:14  “For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF”  The man walked away  He obeyed law in external sense but lacked internal  His heart corrupted by desires for other things and worries of this world like seed in Mark 4:19  What’s even more tragic is man walked away “grieving” a deep painful sorrow  He was experiencing worldly sorrow that leads to death  Not godly sorrow that produces repentance  Like Esau who didn’t find a place for repentance, though he sought it with many tears | 12  He loved his sin too much  Chose broad way that leads to destruction and not narrow way that leads to life  He chose the world instead of eternal life  Jesus saying to disown possessions is not saying money or possessions itself is inherently evil  Money is neutral, it is a tool for something else  “love” of money is condemned but not money itself  1 Timothy 6:17,  “to instruct those who are rich in this present world to not be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.” And He told them to be “rich in good works instead and to be generous and ready to share.” |
| 13  But for this man, money, wealth and possessions was keeping him from following the Lord  Verse 23 Jesus continues (read 23-31)  “wealthy” = “monetary wealth” different than “property”  Sound similar (*ketema* “property” vs. *chrema* “wealthy”)  Word play showing whether you own cash or property, or both, it is difficult to enter the kingdom of God  Having said that wealth itself is not evil, Jesus is saying generally that it is harder for those with wealth to enter the kingdom of God precisely because the more we have, the less we are likely to depend on God  Wealth to certain people can be what Jesus calls “the mammon of unrighteousness” | 14  That is why Scriptures says in Proverbs 30:8  “give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, That I not be full and deny You and say, “Who is the LORD?” Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God”  If you are not careful in your riches, you can easily become callous and numb to those in need around you  Like rich man in Luke 16  -Apathetically acted as if poor man didn’t exist  -Sad picture  It is why James 2:6 says,  “Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?”  Money can be a good thing/a good gift |
| 15  It can be good because it provides comfort, security, happiness, and livelihood. You need money to survive!  But good things like money and sex can become idols because they reflect some aspect of God  Pleasure of money and sex are meant to point us back to God as giver of good gifts  They are means to an end to glorify God as is everything in this world is meant to serve as  Verse 24 Disciples are amazed!  References his disciples as “children”  Jews believed that wealth was a sign of God’s blessing and if you were poor, then you must have sinned (does that sound similar to a certain movement today?)  But Jesus completely flips this on its head | 16  Eye of the needle = no such gate existed = emphasis on impossibility of salvation by yourself  Verse 27  Disciples: “Then who can be saved?”  “With people, it is impossible but not with God; for all things are possible with God”  Btw, you can still have the same heart issue as this rich man even if you are poor  Being poor automatically does not make you righteous  -You don’t want to fall into social justice mindset that more rich you are, it makes you automatically evil and an oppressor  Peter wanting to assure himself and disciples they are truly in kingdom says (read verse 28)  Jesus responds positively  This should comfort you because as high and heavy a cost as discipleship is, Jesus does not ask you to deny yourself, pick up your cross just for that sake |
| 17  If that’s the case, it would be like in marrying a beautiful bride, you are only thinking of what you are losing instead of what you are gaining  You are to abandon all allegiances in this world, including your family and possessions because you will receive a hundred times as much  Are you fearful of losing family because of Christ?  Do not fear!  Because you will have a family in heaven that will be beyond wildest dreams that will satisfy your deepest longings  Hebrews 12  “Great cloud of witnesses”  -Waiting for you at finish line  Revelation 7:  “great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues” | 18  We don’t know what exactly heaven will look like but few descriptions  John: a room/dwelling place  Revelation: New Jerusalem = city  Probably worship, playtime, fellowship and joys that we experience in this life times infinity and without sin, corruption, and death  Therefore…  It is worth it to follow Jesus  It is worth it to suffer for Him  It is worth it to die for Him  If you have followed Jesus, you have declared that your allegiance is only to Him  You have abandoned everything to follow Him |
| 19  Maybe you have even “been” abandoned by world for following Christ  -Truly lost everything  But remember God says in Eph. 1:3  you have been “blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ”  Remember that Jesus says  “all those who lose their life for My sake and the gospel’s sake will find it”  Though you have nothing, you have everything in Christ  2 Cor. 6:4-10 | 20  Paul says that in everything him and his companions commend themselves as servants of God,  “*in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love,**in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; regarded as deceivers and yet true; as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, we live; as punished yet not put to death,* *as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things*.”  Though the world spits on you and counts you as last, you will be first when the kingdom comes |
| 21  Therefore in meantime  Matt. 6:19-21  “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”  My friend if you have not repented in Christ God is proclaiming to you that salvation is simple  A child can understand it and be saved  Salvation is for those with child-like faith  It means there is nothing you can do or bring to contribute to your salvation | 22  Eph. 2:8-9  “grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”  Gospel is not complicated: Jesus Christ came to take away your sins  You must not be like rich young ruler who traded eternal life for the world  Though rich he didn’t realize he was utterly bankrupt before the Lord  There was no amount of even Law keeping that could save him because he lacked child-like faith  He was not like man: “Lord I believe, help my unbelief”  Not like woman who ate crumbs off Jesus’ table  You must humble yourself to level of child and come to Jesus in child-like faith. Let’s pray |