

## Introduction:

In Mark 10:17-31 we see the story of a young man who thought his “goodness” would earn him a spot in Heaven. Jesus reveals through questioning him that the man worships possessions rather than God. Jesus uses the opportunity to teach his disciples that salvation is free, but discipleship is costly; yet one gains more than they give up. You can find the sermon notes [here](#)<sup>1</sup> or listen to the sermon by clicking [here](#).<sup>2</sup>



**“A true disciple does not allow anything to come between them and God.”**

## Scripture:

Please see Mark [10:17-31](#) in your Bible for today's text.

## So What?

In Mark 10:17-31 a young man comes to Jesus asking what “good thing” he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus lists several of the commandments, and the man claims to have kept these from his youth. Then Jesus strikes at the heart of the matter saying, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” It says that the man walked away sad because he had great possessions. His response to Jesus revealed that possessions were more important to him than God. He refuses to lay down his idolatry of riches, and he rejects Jesus' offer to him. Jesus uses the opportunity to teach his disciples that no-one can earn or buy their way into heaven. Salvation is a free gift of God. He taught the disciples that when we give up those things that keep us from following God and turn to him, we gain much more than we gave up.

“Here are three principles we want to practice: 1) Salvation is based on what God did for us, not on what we do for him. It is a free gift. We cannot earn it or deserve it. 2) Having possessions is not a sin in itself. There is nothing wrong with houses, cars, vacations, second homes, education, dreams, promotions, family, etc. However, when they begin to possess us, they turn into idols and must be discarded. 3) Everything we give up for Christ will be returned to us a hundredfold and become part of our eternal reward.”<sup>3</sup>

## What Now?

1. If you have not committed to follow Jesus, don't wait; [eternity is at stake!](#)<sup>4</sup>
2. Are there things or people in our life that hold us back from being a committed disciple? Take a few moments to pray and consider this. What do you need to do in order to be a fully committed disciple in light of what you have discovered?
3. Why did Jesus tell the young man to sell his belongings and then follow him? How would we better explain this text to someone who claims that it teaches salvation through works?
4. No matter how much or how little we have, possessions can be an idol. How do we use our resources in a way that serves God rather than separating us from him?
5. Verse 21 says that Jesus “loved” the young man. Notice that telling the hard truth to a person does not conflict with loving that person. How might we best follow Christ's example in this loving manner of truth telling?
6. Compare Mark 10:25–27 with that of Jesus' words in [Matthew 6:19-21](#), especially verse 21. How would you comfort a believer who was concerned that merely having many possessions could keep them from being saved?

<sup>1</sup> <https://wheelsms.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/good-people-dont-go-to-heaven/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://firstcentralbaptist.com/sermons.html>

<sup>3</sup> This excerpt comes from Pastor Mark's sermon notes.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.whoisjesus-really.com/> See also [Romans 10:9-13](#)