



The One Thing Lacking

Mark 10:17-31

The Context

Mark 10:13-16: The Kingdom of God must be received like a child – no status, or standing, dependent.

The Text

By contrast, the man in today's story is young (Matthew 19:22), a ruler (Luke 18:18) and is rich (vs 22).

BIG QUESTION 1: Who determines what is truly good in life?

Mark 10:17-31

- Vs 18 – Jesus questions the questioner.
- Only true standard of goodness is God!

"Jesus is not denying his own goodness or God-ness, but is probing the young man to see what he believes about Jesus—why would you call me good, if you know God alone is good?"

(Steven A. Crane. *Marveling with Mark : A Homiletical Commentary on the Second Gospel* (Wipf and Stock:2010), page 120.)

- Vs 19 – Last 6 Commandments.
- Vs 21 – "You lack one thing...go, sell...and come, follow me."

BIG QUESTION 2: Who truly calls the shots in our life?

"If one wants eternal life, everything depends on one's response to Jesus."

(David E. Garland. *Mark: NIV Application Commentary*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 1996.))

- Vs 22 – Only place where someone walks away from Jesus.
- Vs 23-25: How hard for the rich to enter God's kingdom.
- Vs 26: Disciples astonished. To Jews, riches was a sign of God's blessing (Deut. 28:1-14; Job 1:10; 42:10; Psalm 128; Proverbs 10:22. etc.)
- Jesus spoke out against the love of money and riches (Matthew 6:24-26 cf Mark 4:19; Matthew 6:19; Luke 12:15.)

What is the one thing you lack?

- Vs 27: What is impossible to man is possible with God.
- Vs 28: Peter: "We left everything and followed you."
- Vs 29-30: No one who left these things for Jesus and Gospel will not receive a hundredfold more in this life (with persecution) and eternal life!
- Vs 31: "But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord." (Jeremiah 9:23-24).