

GOOD NEWS FROM THE KING

A Study of the Gospel According to Mark

Mark 10:1–31

Holy Bible, New International Version ©2011

"Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Mark 10:15

Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your heart to his word.

Read through this week's passage and jot down any thoughts and questions you may have.

Read Mark 10:1–12.

1. Jesus has left Galilee and moved to the region of Judea across the Jordan to teach. Who had previously preached in that area? (Mark 1:4–5)
2. Some Pharisees come to hear Jesus and try to trap him. Why do they focus on the question of divorce (v.2)? (Matthew 14:3–5, Mark 6:17–18)
3. Rather than the "yes or no" response the Pharisees seek to extract from Jesus, he asks them what Moses commanded (v.3). Then Jesus quotes from Genesis (vv. 6–9).
 - a. What is Jesus describing with his answer?
 - b. Who is the authority behind his answer?
 - c. Why must Christians protect the sanctity of the marriage union between one man and one woman in the church?
4. Jesus explains his answer in more detail to his disciples when they are alone. What is significant about this? (vv. 11–12)

“In addition to challenging the cavalier attitude toward divorce, Jesus also did what the rabbis refused to do: he recognized that a man could commit adultery against his wife (v11). In rabbinic Judaism, a woman, by sexual infidelity, could commit adultery against her husband; and a man, by having sexual relations with another man’s wife, could commit adultery against the woman’s husband. But a man could never commit adultery against his wife, no matter what he did. Jesus, by putting the husband under the same moral obligation as the wife, raised the status and dignity of women.”¹

Read Mark 10:13–16.

5. Why do you suppose the disciples rebuke people for bringing their children to Jesus? (v. 13)

6. How does Mark describe Jesus’ reaction? (v. 14)

7. Jesus says, “Truly, I tell you” (v. 15) throughout his ministry when he wants to emphasize an important point². (📖* John 5:24, 6:47)
 - a. What is the important point Jesus is making here? (vv. 14–15)

 - b. What does it mean to “receive the kingdom of God like a little child” (v. 15)?


 - c. Why might this be difficult?

Read verse 16 to see how Jesus lovingly welcomes the little children and envision this same welcome for you.


Read Mark 10:17–31.

8. A man asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. What is Jesus trying to get the man to recognize about him when he questions the man on his use of the word “good”? (vv. 17–18)

9. Jesus then questions the man about keeping the commandments (v.19). Which commandment is missing from this list that would expose the man's heart? (Matthew 22:36-40)

10. Jesus knows this man is mistaken about God, about the law, and even his ability to keep the commandments. And yet “Jesus looked at him and loved him” (v. 21). Out of love, Jesus invites the man to come and follow him. What does Jesus ask the man to do first? (v. 21)
11. Why does the man walk away sad? (v. 22)
12. Jesus laments how hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom (v. 23). The man’s wealth was “the obstacle that kept him from trusting in Jesus.”³ What obstacle keeps you from trusting in Jesus?
- “The camel was the largest animal found in Palestine. The vivid contrast between the largest animal and the smallest opening represents what, humanly speaking, is impossible.”⁴
13. What is the good news for all people, whether rich or poor, with respect to salvation? (vv. 26b–27; Romans 3:21–24,  Galatians 2:15–16, 21; 3:10–11)
14. What is promised to those who willingly give over every area of their lives to God’s lordship “in the present age... and in the age to come” (v. 30)? (vv. 29–30)
15. Jesus says, “many who are first will be last, and the last first” (v. 31). What examples of this have you seen in this passage?
16. What in this lesson has challenged or encouraged you?

This lesson on Mark’s Gospel is adapted from “Life of a Servant” by New Life Glenside Women’s Bible Study, 2002–2003.

* indicates the passage is for further study.

¹Walter W. Wessel and Mark L. Strauss, *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Revised Edition*, ed. Tremper Longman III & David E. Garland (Zondervan, 2010), p 858.

² Ibid, pp. 861–862.

³ *NIV Essentials Study Bible*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013), 1244 (note on Mark 10:21).

⁴ *The NIV Study Bible*, gen. ed. Kenneth Barker (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995), 1512, (note on Mark 10:25).