

# Discussion Guide

Week of May 12, 2013

Mark 10:17-31

## Passage Overview:

Chapters 9–10 of Mark describe the journey of Jesus and his disciples to Jerusalem. This is the way to the cross. In these chapters Jesus explains what it means to be his disciple. This teaching is built around three predictions of his death (8:31; 9:31; 10:32–34). We learn that to follow Jesus is to accept the way of the cross—a life of service and sacrifice. Specifically, in 10:13-31, Mark contrasts the way Jesus welcomes children (vv13-16) and the rich man who goes away from Jesus disheartened (vv17-31). People are included in God’s kingdom through his grace, not because of their importance or goodness.

## Understanding God’s Word—Read Mark 10:17-31.

- Why do you think Mark puts the story of the children (vv13-16) next to the story of the rich young man (vv17-31)?
- Why is Jesus’ first answer (see vv18-19) to the rich young man so unexpected, in light of vv13-16 and the rest of the gospel? What is he getting at?
- Why is Jesus’ second answer (see v21) so unexpected too? What is he getting at?

## Living and Applying God’s Word

- What does Jesus teach about wealth and riches in vv23-31? Why do you think riches are such a spiritual snare? What is Jesus promising in vv29-31 and how can we “lose” or “gain” some of these today?
- How does the young man illustrate what Jesus said in Mark 8:34-37?

## Turning to God in Faith and Repentance

- Read 2 Corinthians 8:9. You know something the rich young man did not. How can this make Jesus’ call to give of ourselves freely (i.e., our time, talent, treasures) a joy and not a burden?
- Out of love (v21), Jesus told the rich young ruler to do something enormously hard: to sell all his possessions and give them to the poor. This tells us a lot:
  - Jesus loves us in spite of our spiritual stupidity. *How does this humble you and enlarge your view of grace?*
  - Jesus sometimes confronts us and calls us to do difficult things—out of love. *Do you idolize comfort and ease? What hard things that God is calling you to might you be ignoring?*
  - We ought to love the spiritually weak. *Are there people you look down on? How does this reveal spiritual pride and self-righteousness?*
  - We should not hate or think of the rich as more sinful than the poor. *How might this reveal your own envy or self-righteousness?*

**Prayer:** Thank God for his grace. Remind each other that giving up everything to follow Jesus reflects a surrendered heart, but it is not a “work” we accomplish in order to earn God’s favor. Pray for one another. Pray also for Al and Wendy Wall and their work at Alaska Bible College.

## Announcements

- Starting Point classes (May 17, 6:30-9pm; May 18, 9-noon; May 19, 6-7:30pm)
- Community Group Leader Training (May 19, 6:30-7:30pm)
- Kid Keepers—paid childcare workers for church events/meetings (if interested, email sigourney@insidecrosspointe.com)
- Base Camp—for children entering 1st-6th grades (June 24-28; register today!)