

POTOMAC HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Personal and Group Study Guide for May 17, 2020

The 31st Sermon in a series on The Gospel of Mark, “The King and His Cross”

“Questions and Answer”

INTRODUCTION: “He Lives in Loudoun County”

**** Key Questions**

1. Describe the average person who lives here?
2. What is the problem with being a person of moral excellence? **
3. How do Christians sometimes make it look like our religion is based on what we do?
How can we change this perception?

Read Mark 10:17–22: IT’S EASIER THAN YOU THINK

4. How does the context of Jesus welcoming the little child set the stage for this instruction?
5. Why do we need to bring the question of salvation to the right person?
6. Does he ask the right question in verse 17? How would you improve the question?
7. So, what’s the right answer to the question? Is that what Jesus says in verses 18-21? **
How did Jesus already model what he asks of the young man?
8. In light of verses 13-16, what’s the right response? **

Read Mark 10:23–27: IT’S HARDER THAN YOU THINK

9. Why does wealth make it harder for one to enter the Kingdom of God? **
10. Why were the disciples “exceedingly astonished” at Jesus answer?

Read Mark 10:28–31: IT’S BETTER THAN YOU THINK

11. If we’re being asked to give up precious things, what are we promised in return? **
12. We’ve all heard the saying, “*But many who are first will be last, and the last first.*”
How would you apply that to our lives today?

Close with prayer. *Here are some suggestions from The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission:*

For Christians, this should be a moment of vigilance as we do everything we can to love our vulnerable neighbors. It should also be a time of prayer. You can pray in line with each heading or simply use the prayer included below:

- 1. Start by acknowledging our dependence on God.** *Heavenly Father, we acknowledge our dependence upon you. This virus has reminded us of our frailty. We have subdued much of the earth with our innovation and creative acts, but we are reminded in this moment how frail and powerless we really are. So we repent of our self-sufficiency and hubris.*
- 2. Lament that we are filled with sin and live under the effects of the fall.** *Lord, we lament the fallen nature of our world, which mars the beauty of your created order. COVID-19 comes to steal and destroy, to worm its way through human bodies and spread its vile sickness across communities and nations and the world. We, like your Son, weep and rage at sickness and death. And yet we know that it was Jesus whose death and resurrection defeated this final foe. We long for the day you resurrect our bodies and restore the world.*
- 3. Pray for those in the medical and science communities.** *As we endure this new normal in our lives, we pray earnestly for the heroic medical doctors, nurses, and health care professionals who are putting their lives on the line for their neighbors. May you give them strength and physical immunity during this time, so they can help push back against this ravaging virus. We also pray for the scientists, disease experts, and epidemiologists who are working feverishly on vaccines and testing mechanisms. Lord, we thank you for gifting them with knowledge and wisdom we don't have. We pray for their endurance, for breakthroughs, and for resources.*
- 4. Ask God to heal the sick.** *Lord, you are the Great Physician, so we pray for healing for the victims of COVID-19. Lord, you are the Creator, with power over the creation, so we pray for COVID-19 to be destroyed. Spirit of God, you are the Comforter, so please comfort our troubled souls.*
- 5. Ask God to work in the hearts of government officials.** *Dear God, move in the hearts of our public officials. As you have instructed us in your Word, we earnestly beseech you on behalf of our president, Congress, governors, mayors, and local officials. We pray you guide them with wisdom and strength and discernment.*
- 6. Ask God to use this pandemic to change the spiritual state of our country.** *We also pray for the people in our nation and the nations of the world to be humbled and turn to you in repentance and faith. We know you are the Prince of peace, Lord of lords, the King of kings. We praise you for your goodness and your mercy. And we ask this all in the name of Jesus, our Lord.*