



Lessons for Disciples - Entering The Kingdom

Key idea:

No human can enter the kingdom of God by their own works or efforts but only by the grace and work of God.

Key text:

Mark 10:17-31

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”¹⁸ “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good — except God alone.”¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.’”²⁰ “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”²² At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”²⁴ The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”²⁶ The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?”²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”²⁸ Peter said to him, “We have left everything to follow you!”²⁹ “I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields — and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Key points:

1. A young man came to Jesus wanting to know what he had to do to inherit eternal life (be part of God’s kingdom), and Jesus showed him his false hope in his own works and wealth - and the young man walked away and did not follow Jesus.
2. Jesus taught that it is impossible for humans to work their way into the kingdom - only God can bring someone into the kingdom.

3. To become disciples of Jesus and be part of the kingdom, each person must forsake any thought of their own worthiness and embrace the gift of salvation by faith alone.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. When the man first approaches Jesus he falls before Him and sincerely asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. When I read this, how do I think Jesus is going to respond? Would I have accepted the man's action and question at face value? Why didn't Jesus?
3. Why does Jesus say that only God is good? Is Jesus denying that He is good? If not, then why did He make this statement?
4. Why does Jesus point the man to God's Law? How would the Law of God address the man's deepest needs?
5. Why does Jesus specifically quote the 2nd Table of the Ten Commandments, which deals with our responsibilities to other humans? Why focus on these commandments rather than on the ones related to worshipping God rightly?
6. Why does Jesus add the command about not defrauding since it was not part of the 10 Commandments? What might this imply regarding the actions and responsibilities of this man?
7. Why does Jesus tell the man to sell everything he has, give it to the poor, and follow Jesus? Does this apply to every disciple? Why or why not? Can I give examples to support my position?
8. Why does Jesus say it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than it is for me to enter the kingdom? What does this tell me about my predicament?
9. Why do humans seem to prefer law (what I do) to Gospel (what Jesus has done)?
10. What can I learn from this story that helps me to share the Gospel with others?
11. Are there any areas in my life that form my identity and that I think make me worthy of God's Kingdom? How is God calling me to forsake these to follow Him?
12. Who can I reach out to this week to serve and bless?