**Follow – Gospel of Mark - Wk 25 – The Price Tag**

**In Mark, we see the people who he calls to follow, initially doing poorly, but the more they walk with him they understand. We see a change from stumbling supporters to the dedicated followers. They fail over and over, but Jesus does not give up on them.**

**Shopping looking at price tags… nope… I can live with that… Today – a price tag moment.**

**The Influencer - Mark 10:17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him (urgency) and fell on his knees before him. (Humility vs22 and other gospels tell us he was rich young ruler – young businessman) “Good teacher,” (called him a sinless perfect teacher) he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” (Good question but Jesus says something weird) 18 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. (Was Jesus saying he was not God or not sinless??? More on this later)**

**Notice the question, “What must I do?” He didn’t want a savior – he wanted Jesus to show him the way to be his own savior.**

**10:19 You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’” (Jesus mentions 6 of 10) 20 “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”**

**Ever notice we tend to see ourselves better than we really are. I don’t lie, steal, cheat, covet, adultery, murder. I am pretty good compared to others. God must be proud of me…**

**21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,”**

**\*\*\* Jesus never stops loving us, even when we are wrong**

**Jesus looked at him (in his stupidity) and still loved him.**

**“One thing you lack,” (Get Smart – Missed it by that much!)**

**Two kinds of commandments – vertical and horizontal.**

**The 6 commands mentioned are outward actions (horizontal) The other 4 all deal with a heart w/ God (vertical).**

**He was good at the horizontal.**

**But Jesus said there is one in particular you missed - lack. What was the one that Jesus was talking about?**

**(Jesus said you’re all about “doing” – then “do this”) 21b He said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”**

**Jesus did not tell everyone to do this – why him?**

**You want eternal life? Sell it all – and follow me. Jesus knew that wealth, success, and position had become his god.**

**The command Jesus was referring to is the first – Exodus 20 - You shall have no other gods before me. Command # 1 – the core of them all. God alone must be worship and followed. # 2 – no idols**

**This echoes - Mark 8:34 - Are you willing to lose it all to save your life?**

**Mark 10:22 At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. (Could have said you are right… but he made the choice to walk…)**

**It was not as if he was asking him to lie on a bed of nails, crawl on cut glass, live in a cave, eat bugs, or to burn money – but give it to the poor – This was a Price Tag Moment… A heart test to see if God was really sitting on the throne of his heart.**

**\*\*\* Jesus will let you walk away**

**Jesus never said, “Hold on you can keep some. Give part of it”**

**The man claimed to love God, but the price tag proved to be a deal breaker. If Jesus were to put you to the same test, what would you do?**

**He had everything he wanted – but missed the one thing he needed. He met Jesus… and he still walked way sad.**

**The disciples watching… have you ever seen someone walk away from Jesus? I have. The man had everything he wanted – but was still left wanting. Empty. Nothing he had could fill him.**

**\*\*\* Only one thing can fill the whole in your soul – Jesus.**

**The Rich Young Ruler was ideal picture of a church goer**

* **He knew who Jesus was – he knew the right person.**
* **He knew where to find Jesus – and he came at the right time**
* **He came the right way - running to Jesus in urgency and humility**
* **He lived a good life and knew the scriptures**
* **He came for the right reason – he wanted salvation.**

**Sounds like a good church person – Christian type. Problem with the rich young ruler – this is what we are taught to do and know – “since I was a boy” - but…**

**In spite of everything he had going for him on the outside (Young, money, influence, a good person) - he had a skeleton in the closet. He did not have peace with God.**

**He had a subscription to Jesus with no submission to Jesus.**

**He wanted his life and he wanted assurance of heaven.**

**This is about a man who went to hell with heaven on his mind.**

**Many either have everything they want to be happy – or think that they know what they need to be happy. But still end up unhappy w/out JC.**

**The Kingdom - Mark 10:23 Jesus looked around (as if this was not just for him – it was everyone) and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!” (not a question - a statement - it’s hard to have everything and to enter the kingdom – wealth is not necessarily a sign of God’s approval – it can actually be a hurdle) 24 The disciples were amazed (shocked terrified – stalled) at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! (it is hard to enter the kingdom of heaven?) 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”**

**Jesus was being humorous – Camels were large animals going through a small hole (not a gate) – meaning impossible.**

**26 The disciples were even more amazed, (stalled) and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?” (if entering the kingdom of heaven is impossible and those who have material possessions are not necessarily closer to God and it is hard for them – “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.”**

**This is not a verse about sky diving or getting that job – this is about God’s ability to save anyone.**

**\*\*\* Jesus can work in and save anyone – no matter who they are.**

**This is the story about our impossibility to save ourselves and God’s power to save anyone. Don’t give up on…**

**The Sacrifices - Mark 10:28 Then Peter spoke up, (Peter did not walk away when Jesus called him, he left everything – it got him thinking…) “We have left everything to follow you!” (he was not willing, we did - what happens to us?) 29 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters, or mother or father, wife or children, or fields for me and the gospel 30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. (What does that mean?) 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”**

**\*\*\* Jesus is fully aware of what you have sacrificed to follow him**

**God sees and records every sacrifice – but does that mean we will get repaid for it 100X more?**

**Three Things Jesus did not say in these passages**

1. **Jesus did not say he was not God**

**Mark 10:17 ... “Good teacher…” (sinless perfect teacher) 18 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. (What I thought he was… Mark has spent a lot of time proving this.)**

**This was not a denial – this was a question of reflection.**

**You claim to know me – but do you really? Why do you call me good? Do you really know what you are saying? Do you really know who I am and are you ready to really do whatever I ask?**

**Matthew 7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven… 22 Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy… drive out demons… and perform miracles?’ 23 Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ (knew is relationship, not knowledge)**

**Likewise, many say they know God, but Jesus says, “Do you really understand what you say? One thing can determine if you know who I am… are you willing to let go of everything...**

1. **Jesus did not say all rich people will go to hell**

**Mark 10:25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”**

**Some have used this passage to preach – poverty. That we must sell everything and live in poverty to truly follow Jesus.**

**Wealthy people who followed Jesus in the bible – Zacchaeus, Joseph of Arimathea, and Barnabas, and thru history many more examples.**

**NT is filled with the blessings and generosity of the successful who used their resources for the kingdom. You are the rich! 3 Bill hungry.**

**\*\* The Bible teaches generosity not poverty.**

**To follow Jesus do we have to cash out? The only time in that Jesus asks someone to do this. The point is not about riches – it is about putting your trust in material possessions. If money becomes your goal in life, it will become your God in life. Stuff make terrible saviors.**

1. **Jesus did not promise material wealth in this life if you follow Him**

**Mark 10:29 …no one who has left home or brothers or sisters, or mother or father, wife or children, or fields for me and the gospel 30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields, along with persecutions and in the age to come eternal life.**

**This verse has been used by prosperity teachers to teach that we will have big homes and nice cars if we follow Jesus.**

**Says we will have 100X more in this life - not literal or would be saying you will have 100’s of mothers, children, wives, homes.**

**\*\*\* Material wealth is not the determining factor of blessing.**

**“Every good thing is from above” - but don’t confuse a “blessing” with being okay with God. Just ask a Haitian, those who have little, are sick.**

**The Gospel is not come and follow Jesus, and everything will go well for you. The gospel is come and follow him – and you get HIM! (Jesus)**

**John the Baptist (Jesus said the greatest born of man who ever lived) and what happened to John – living in the woods, arrested, beheaded.**

**I thought I was going to get a boat and write some books…**

**Mark 10:31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.” (that is the twist – the least likely will be last and first…)**

**What is blessing? The reward will outweigh anything you sacrificed.**

**Three Things Jesus did say in these passages**

**1. Salvation is not something you can earn**

**Salvation is not a do – not a reward for being good - not a prize for sacrificing for God. It is not a list on your heaven resume.**

**I don’t steal, cheat, lie, abuse my family, get drunk, sleep around – compared to others I’m a saint.**

**BUT God does not grade on a curve - or by comparing us to others. He compares us to HIM. And HE is Holy.**

**“We all have sinned and fallen short.” Ro 3:23**

**The problem Jesus exposed to him was the sin problem of idolatry.**

**When Jesus listed 5 commands – he was not saying we could attain salvation by keeping all 10. He was highlighting the man’s efforts to “do.” On the cross Jesus declare, “It is done!”**

**2. Even good moral people need Jesus**

**“Since I was a boy” I went to church, kept myself pure, never stole, I was a good son. (\*But I still haven’t found what I’m looking for)**

**We all (even good people) are sinners – in need of grace.**

**3. The Kingdom of heaven is an all-in venture**

**This young man had the same issue a lot of people have today – they trust in their own efforts –own achievements –own successes – own goodness. But still - “You lack one thing”**

**So many hold white knuckle to the things of this world.**

**He was offered the kingdom of heaven – but he chose the kingdoms of earth. So many sell out to the politics of an earthly kingdom. You can have the stuff or the savior.**

**Three Questions in these passages**

**You may have heard the story – but the questions are still the same…**

**1. Do you have a price tag?**

**What is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus would ask me for today?**

**Seeker – is your stuff / person holding you back from eternity?**

**What stand between you and God?**

**2. Who are you praying for to know Jesus?**

**Do you really believe God can save anyone?**

**3. How will you walk away today?**

**Like that young man - our earthly decisions, have an eternal impact.**

**Jesus often asked if it was worth it - Mark 8:36 – 36 “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Are you conflicted inside?**

**Jesus never stops loving you – even when you’re wrong.**

**But you have a chance right now to know Jesus.**

**Will you walk away say or will you walk away celebrating?**

**\*\*\* Jesus is fully aware of what you have sacrificed to follow him**

**God sees and records every sacrifice -**

**There is a definite advantage to following Jesus.**

**He is either the Savior of the world or a swear word.**

**How will you respond?**

**Ladder – starts wide and gets narrow as you go farther – this is what I chose, disciplines. Asking more and more from you. Only to find that you are still short of heaven – no matter how far you go – how high you climb – are you are short of God. And it only takes more and more. That man was climbing the rungs since a boy… and still missed it.**