

Sunday, October 10, 2021
20 Pentecost, Year B

Mark 10:17-31

¹⁷As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’ ” ²⁰He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. ²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It 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.” ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.” ²⁸Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.” .

OPEN

- Did you choose the job you are in for a) money b) fulfillment, or c) the chance to make a contribution?

DIG

- How does the man’s question in v 17 compare with what Jesus had just taught about the kingdom (v. 15)? What was his assumption about how one gains the kingdom?
- What is Jesus trying to drive home by responding to the way the man addressed him?
- Jesus quizzes the man on only a partial list of the 10 commandments (ex. 20). How well might the man have obeyed the ones relating directly to God?
- Why does Jesus command the man as he does (v. 21)? What does his response reveal which had been hidden by his good works?
- What does the disciples’ shock reveal about them? On what basis is it possible for anyone to receive the kingdom?
- How is the promise (vv. 29-30) to come true for believers?

REFLECT

- What has helped you see the impossibility of “earning” the kingdom? As a result, how have you experienced the gift of the kingdom as described in verses 29-30?
- What in your life could Jesus point to as something that is preventing you from receiving the kingdom?