

AM Mark 13:13-31

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Date: 31 October 2021

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[0 : 00] Let's read the Word of God now from the Gospel of Mark in chapter 10, reading at verse 13. Mark chapter 10, reading at verse 13.

And they were bringing children to Jesus, that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, Let the children come to me, do not hinder them, for to such belong the kingdom of God.

Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it. And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?

Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments. Do not murder. Do not commit adultery.

[1 : 18] Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Do not defraud. Honor your father and mother.

And he said to him, Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.

And Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, You lack one thing. Go, sell all that you have and give to the poor.

And you will have treasure in heaven. And come, follow me. Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God.

And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God.

[2 : 22] It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. And they were exceedingly astonished and said to him, Then who can be saved?

Jesus looked at them and said, With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.

Peter began to say to him, See, we have left everything and followed you. Jesus said, Truly, I say to you, There is no one who has left house, Or brother, Or sister, Or mother, Or father, Or children, Or lands, For my sake and for the gospel, Who will not receive A hundredfold Now in this time, Houses, And brothers, And sisters, And mothers, And children, And lands, With persecutions, And in the age to come, Eternal life.

But many who are first, Will be last, And the last, First. Amen, And may the Lord bless to us, That reading of his own holy, Inspired word.

Let's turn again to Mark 10, Reading at verse 17. The well-known story about the rich young man.

[4 : 00] As Jesus was setting out on his journey, A man ran up, And knelt before him, And asked, Good teacher, What must I do to inherit eternal life?

Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments, Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.

And he said to him, Teacher, All these I have kept from my youth. And Jesus, Looking at him, Loved him and said to him, You lack one thing, Go sell all that you have, And give to the poor, And you will have treasure in heaven, And come follow me.

Disheartened by the saying, He went away sorrowful, Because he had great possessions. What do you think of the rich young man?

What impression do you have of this person? He wasn't the only one who came up to Jesus, And asked that question, What must I do to inherit eternal life?

[5 : 12] There was a lawyer who came up, And asked that same question, And Jesus dealt with him differently. He says, What does the law say? And he said, The law says, You will love the Lord your God, With all your heart, And so on.

And Jesus approached him differently. But this was a rich young man, Not just a lawyer. Good teacher, What must I do, To inherit eternal life?

What do you think of him? Do you think of him positively, Or negatively? I want to think of this particular narrative today, From this rich young man's perspective, As sent out for us, In these verses.

First thing I think we can say about him, This is what he would say, I think, I wanted the best, That God could give. I wanted the best, That God could give.

And don't you admire this, Young man, And he was young. He was rich, But he was young. He probably was, Immature. But he wanted the best, That God could give him.

[6 : 21] And that's why he comes up to Jesus, And he asks, About eternal life. See this, You know, We all have longings. Some of us have longings, For a home.

Some have longings, For a good school, Or to have somebody, That we meet with, And fall in love with, Get married to. We may have longings, For our work, And promotion.

We may have longings, For health. And if you have bad health, You long for good health. But you don't always think, Perhaps about eternal life. But this person, He probably had lots of the things, That the world could offer.

He was rich. He was young. Probably in good health. But he didn't, Make an idol of all these things, He thought. Because he said, I want, Above everything else, He says, I want eternal life.

And what does that mean, When he says, He wants eternal life? Well, We imagine that this man, Probably grew up in a good home. Yeah? Because he was taught, By his parents, About God, And about life, And about, Eternal life.

[7 : 35] You won't hear much, About these things, At the COP summit, In Glasgow. You'll hear much, About life in this world, But probably nothing, About eternal life. This is the kind of life, Where you have a relationship, With God himself.

A relationship, That outlasts, This life. A relationship, That goes beyond, The grave. Now, That's, Eternal life.

And it's one of the most, Precious things. The Jews, In the first century, They thought that, This eternal life, Could only begin, In the future. In the days to come.

And they wanted, To ensure, That they would, Have this eternal life. And like this young man, They had their own way, Of approaching it. He probably grew up, In a good home, Well raised.

He obviously, Been educated, In the Bible. He knows something, About scripture. And he's really, Earnest. Have you noticed that?

[8 : 40] This man, Ran. He was in good health. He ran up, And then, Knelt before him. Knelt before Jesus. So here's somebody, Who's not just, Wanting the things, Of this world.

He's got riches. He's not asking, For more riches. He's got health, Sufficient to run. He's not asking, For more health. He's asking for something, That he doesn't have yet.

And that's, Eternal life. And I think, That's a good thing. He may be, Not quite clear, About what eternal life is.

But the fact, That he wants it, I think is something, That we should be, Very, Very pleased about. Because here's somebody, That takes God seriously. How many people, In your street, In your district, Take God seriously?

How many of them, Take sin, Seriously? How many, Are there, Who really, Understand, What it is, To have a relationship, With God, Through Jesus Christ?

[9 : 51] Probably, Very, Very few, Out of a hundred, In your very, Close district, How many, Believe in God, Understand sin, And look to, Jesus Christ, Or even, Somehow, Long for such things, Probably, Very, Very few, But this person, He wants the very best, That God can give him, And I hope, That every one of you, Those of you, Are Christians, I hope, That you want, The very best, That God can give you, I hope you want, Eternal life, You're actually, Already enjoying it, But I hope, That you're actually, Longing, For even, More, Of that, You've passed, From death to life, You really have, A relationship with God, You have it, Through Jesus Christ, It will never be,

Taken away from you, And yet, You still haven't, Enjoyed the best, And the best, You won't enjoy, Until the morning, Of the resurrection, Even those, Who are in heaven today, Many of whom, We

know, And love, Even these, Don't enjoy, The fullness, That they will enjoy, When body, And soul, They will rise, To everlasting life, No funerals, On the horizon, No separation, Between themselves, And God, On account of sin, But the dwelling, Of God, With man, Life, Eternal life, Savor it now, Long for it more, But if you're not, A Christian, If you haven't yet, Fully understood this, Is that not, What you want, For yourself, To have this,

Eternal, Life, This relationship, With God, Not just a relationship, With the church, Not just a relationship, With Christians, But a relationship, With no one, Less than, God, God, Himself, That's really, Precious, I mean, That's what you have, And you can never, Lose once you have it, But it's a gift of God, As we shall see, Well, I admire this young man, Who's basically saying, I want the best, That God can give me, Eternal life, The second thing, I think the man is saying, I thought, Jesus was the answer, I thought, Jesus was the answer, Why?

Well, Jesus is somebody, Who spoke about, Eternal life, He spoke about it, A fair bit, He is also somebody, That seemed to enjoy, Eternal life, Now, To some degree, He had this sense, Of peace about him, He spoke about, A relationship with God, As his father, And he spoke, As if he wasn't afraid, Of death, He's even, Speaking about, Going up to Jerusalem, Dying and, Rising again, And people hearing, This kind of stuff, Are saying, There's something, About that person, You know, This person, Has a relationship, With God, He knows about, Eternal life, He's not afraid, To die, And he's also, A teacher, Somebody, Who could maybe, Explain to others, And when you find, A teacher, A good teacher, Who will explain, Something to you, You should really, Go to that person, Now these good teachers,

They're not just, An ETS, They can be, In your families, They can be people, Who have been, In the Christian road, Before you, You go to these people, I used to go to my mother, Since I was last here, My, My last surviving auntie, Died at the age of 97, She was my discipler, In chief, A beautiful Christian, Who disciplined me, In the faith, She knew about eternal life, And I could go, And ask her about it, A good teacher, Yes, Treasure such, Well here, Is a teacher, Who is good, Not just good at teaching though, This is a teacher, Who is actually good, And that's what's so, So special, About him, And that's why, This rich young man, Went up to him, Because he thought, Jesus was the answer, I mean, There was Jesus, Remember, Children were being brought to him, That he might touch them, And bless them,

[14 : 49] The disciples said, No, No, No, Keep the children away from Jesus, And Jesus says, Don't do that, Let the children come to me, To such belongs the kingdom of God, And he took the children in his arms, And he blessed them, And then, He was getting ready, To go out on his journey, And as he was going out on his journey, He had already set out, This rich young man, Was very brave, And he decided to do something, That he never did before, He ran, And stopped Jesus, He had the courage, To stop Jesus, Jesus was going out on the way, On the journey, And this man ran up, And knelt before, And Jesus couldn't go past, Without standing on a man, He stopped, Jesus, In his tracks, Now that took,

Consideration, He thought about what he was doing, It took conviction, It took commitment, It even took courage, And there are people, Who will come to our church buildings, And who will come and speak to us, About the Lord, And about life, And death, And so on, And we should never underestimate, The conviction behind that, The courage, Behind that, The consideration, And even the commitment, Because that's what this man was doing, He was coming, On a day, When everything, Seemed to be, Focusing in on this Jesus, And he said, Jesus is the answer, I've got this nagging desire, To have eternal life, And I know, That that person is the answer, This was going to be the best day of his life, He probably thought, I mean think of it, To stop Jesus in his tracks, And he thought, This will be worth it though, You know, You prepare to do things, If you know, That there's going to be blessing following it, You'll go through a hard time, If you know good will result from it, So he's going to take a public stand, Or the opposite, He's going to publicly kneel, Before Jesus, But, Even so, He knows, Good will come out of it, Eternal life, And why does he call Jesus, Good teacher, Well probably he knows about him, He knows about the miracles that he did, Jesus' miracles, Every single one of them, Was to actually help people, He could so easily, Have called upon, Destruction to come upon, Every town and village he went through, Because they were filled with scoffers, And mocker, And mocker, But he doesn't,

He uses his power, To heal the sick, The blind, The lame, The deaf, Even to raise people from death, He's obviously a compassionate person, A very caring person, And of course, If you're compassionate, And caring, You're more likely, To have somebody coming up to you, And opening

up their heart, What must I do, To inherit eternal life, We've got to be careful, That we're seen in the right way, That we are seen as good, In that sense even, The trouble, When you use the word, Good, I think what the man was doing, Was looking at Jesus, And saying, Not you're a good teacher, But you're somebody that is good, You're better than I am, You're better than I am, And sometimes we look at people, And especially when we're seeking the Lord, For the first time, We look at Christians, And we're saying, You're good, You're better than I am, I think that's what this person is doing, He's looking at Jesus, And he's measuring himself, In relation to Jesus, And he says, You're good, You're better than I am, As a person you're better, You have a better understanding, You have a better grasp on things, You know more about God's purposes, You are the answer, Jesus, Jesus, He wouldn't have been the only one, Who would have done this, There would have been others, Jesus would have towered, In any generation, There was no one like him, He stood out, So he comes to Jesus, So he comes to Jesus, Because Jesus is good,

[19 : 56] In his eyes, He thought Jesus, Was the answer, Do you have loved ones, Who think Jesus is the answer, For the wrong reasons, They think Jesus, Jesus is the answer, They name him, Maybe in their songs, They go maybe, And certain times of the year, Christmas and Easter especially, And the name is name, In certain services, They would never speak, Against Jesus, They maybe say, Not very much about the Old Testament, The God of the Old Testament, But the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Yes, They will give much time to that, They think, Jesus, Is the answer, But for the wrong reasons, For the wrong reasons,

You see, Jesus, Is not the answer, When the reasons, And the understanding is wrong, Let's look at the third thing, So this man is saying, I wanted the best that God could give, Eternal life, I thought Jesus was the answer, The third thing I said, If you were speaking to him afterwards, Jesus turned, My heart, Inside out, He turned my heart, Inside out, When Jesus, When you come to Jesus, When you really are seeking him, Be prepared, For him, To address you, And turn you, Inside out, Okay, He thought he knew Jesus, But he didn't quite realize, Is how much Jesus, Knew him, Jesus turned him, Inside out, There is so much, In the gospel of Mark, If you are exploring it, About Jesus, Knowing, What goes on inside people, Mark 2, 1 to 12, Remember, He knew what was going on, The questions, Inside the Pharisees, And the scribes, He knew of the hardness, Of people, In chapter 3, He knew about the demoniac, Legion, How many demons, Were inside him, In Mark 5, He knows, All about his disciples, Well he knows, About this rich young man, He knows how he thinks, He knows, What he thinks he wants, And he knows, How long, He's been deciding, This eternal life, He knows, How this young man, Has been already, Trying to achieve, Eternal life, With certainty, He knows, What this young man, Thinks of as good, He knows pretty much, Everything, About this young man, And notice what Jesus does, He challenges him, First of all, About his conception, Of good, He challenges him, About his, Conception of good, Jesus said to him, Why do you call me, Good?

You know, I imagine, If this rich young man, Had come up to any of us, And said, Good Norman, What must I do, To inherit eternal life?

[23 : 36] I think we probably, Would skip, Past the good part, No offence to Norman, Or anyone, And just focus in, On eternal life, And say, This is good, This is good, You're understanding that, You're focusing on eternal life, That's so encouraging, But Jesus, Went to the nub, He went to the heart, Of the matter, And he says, Why do you call me, Good?

You think I'm the answer, Because I'm better than you, The reality is, No one is good, But God, He is the baseline, For all goodness, You've got your conception, Of me, Wrong, The second thing he does is, He says to him, I know, You know, These commandments, You know the commandments, He says, Isn't that interesting?

He knows how well up, Well brought up, This young man was, You know the commandments, Nobody has to teach them to you, We see the children in the church, And yes, We take the children on our knees, And we explain to them, The word of God, Jesus looks at this young man, And he says, You know, The commandments, They fill your heart, They fill your mind, They shape your life, They affect your decision, On a daily basis, You know the commandments, He says, And then he lists them, Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father, And your mother, He knows, That the young man, Knows, All about these things, And the young man, Confirms this, He confirms this, His heart, Is being,

Brought, Inside out, And he actually, Probably says something, That he's never said, In his life before, He says, Teacher, All these, I have kept, From my youth, What a confession, What an affirmation, Wouldn't you love, If everyone, In Dumfries, And Galloway, Took these commandments, Seriously, In our teaching, In the schools, In our hospitals, And at the moment, They're debating euthanasia, Wouldn't you love, If each of these commandments, Were kept, By these people, Seriously, From their youth, Of course you would, Well here's this young man, And in front of everyone, What's going on, In his heart, Is brought, Out, He's been turned, Inside out, All these, Commands, You've mentioned Jesus, Yes you're right, I know them, But I don't just know them, I've kept them, I've guarded them, I've protected them, I've ensured, That they are part, Of my life, I don't just know them up here, That's not the word, Know here, It's this idea of, Keeping, Protecting, It's related to the idea of, A prison guard, Watching over others, It's when you're, Observing something, And keeping it, Jealously, This is somebody, Who took God's law, Really, Really, Seriously, Well this person did it, And he admitted it, In front of, Everyone, All these, He says, I have kept, From my youth, See what Jesus, [27 : 50] Has done there, He's got him, To express something, He said, Got him to express, The logic, Of his position, He's got him, To follow, The logic, Of his own thinking, Good, You think I'm good, What about your goodness, You know the command, Yes, Of course I know them, And he lists them, And even having listed them, No shame, The man says, All of these, I have kept from my youth, Wow, You almost would think, That this young man, Was good, And he finds himself, Coming out with this, In front of everyone, His heart is being turned, Inside out, And you know, Jesus, Is very, Very good, At showing us, What goes on in our hearts, He will often do that, Through the preaching of the word, You're under a sermon, And you're listening,

And all of a sudden, You realise, Hey, I never thought that I, I thought like that, And you think, No, That's interesting, And you, You come in, One person, And you go out the door, From the church, And you think, My thinking on this has changed now, And that's great, And, Jesus turns you inside out, And you know this, He keeps on doing that, All the days of your discipleship life, Every day, He works within you, The spirit of the Lord, Doesn't take an annual leave, He doesn't work shifts, He's always at work in you, Both to will and do, Of his good pleasure, But even to will, And to do it, Means that you have to understand it, And he's always, Always at work in these ways, Always be in the place,

Where Jesus can turn your heart inside out, The fourth thing I think the young man would say, I wanted the best that God could give, Eternal life, I thought Jesus was the answer, Jesus turned my heart inside out, Jesus turned my world upside down, He turned my world upside down, Look at what Jesus does, Having led him to make that affirmation and confession, All these I have kept from my youth, Jesus looking at him, Loved him, Said to him publicly, You lack one thing, Go, Sell all that you have, And give to the poor, And you will, Most certainly will, Have treasure in heaven, And come follow me, So, Go first of all, And then come back, Go, And sell everything you've got, Then come back, And follow me, Now Jesus is not humiliating this person, You know there are some times when we do apologetics, Our aim is to show that we're right, And they're wrong, And that's not nice, That really is not nice, Your aim is never to show that the other person is wrong, And you're right, I love the old word, And I always say to my students, Be winsome, Be winsome, You want certain people, You speak to them, And you want to be winsome, The aim is not to beat them, Not even to beat them at their own game, But to ensure, That souls are one for Christ,

Well Jesus, Look, You wouldn't expect this, Would you? Seriously, If you heard, Somebody saying, I've kept all the commandments, You'd be ready, Perhaps like myself, To pounce on them, And say, Ha, You think so?

[32 : 14] You think so? And you would just lay down on them, You're wrong, But look at this, Jesus looked at him, Loved him, Now, Isn't that so unexpected?

You might have looked at the person, With scorn perhaps, But Jesus looks at him, And it was obvious, That he loved, In fact, The man himself, Would have recalled this, The look, The love, And then what he said, With that look of love, Sell everything, Give it to the poor, Then come, Follow me, See, There's something about that, One to oneness, Isn't there?

When God, Through Christ, Looks, Loves, And challenges, There was a man, In sky, And this man, Went to Glasgow, And there was a preacher, In Glasgow, Called Reverend, W.R.

Mackay, And he was a wonderfully, Gifted evangelist, And, There would be certain meetings, Set up, And loads of people, Would come into the church, To hear the gospel preached, By, W.R. Mackay, And, This man, Thought, I'm not a Christian, But, I'm going to go to the church, To find out, What this is all about, He had grown up, In a Christian home, But he hadn't yet, Become a Christian, And he came into the church, And he sat, Let's say, Over in the corner there, And the minister, When the minister preached, He was looking at that man, All through the service, The following evening, There was going to be another service, In the church, And this man said, Right, It was a bit uncomfortable, But I'm going back again, Because, There's something good going on here, So he came to the church, And he sat, As it were, On that side of the church, And again, Throughout the whole service, He felt that, W.R.

[34 : 52] Mackay, Was looking at him, All the time, And the word was going home to him, After the service, He took courage, And he, Went up to, W.R.

Mackay, And says, Why, Have you been looking at me, These two nights, And W.R. Looked at him, And says, I've never seen you, Never saw you, See, There's a sense in which, God, Is looking at us, Through the preaching of the word, And it may be, That the preacher's eye, Catches somebody, But it's God himself, Who brings his word, To bear upon us, In that most personal of ways, Well this rich young man, He experienced that, God, Through Jesus, Looked at him, Loved him, And challenged him, Using his own logic, You lack one thing, By your standards, Go and sell everything you've got, Give it to the poor, Those who really need it, Not you, And then come, You'll follow me, And here's the promise, You will, Have treasure in heaven, You will have treasure, You're giving away, All your earthly treasure, But you, Will have treasure in heaven, Not in this life, But in the next life, Just give up all of this, Don't focus upon these things, Because up to this point, The rich young man, Made no mention of his richness, His wealth, That didn't become part of the conversation, He was just looking for eternal life, He was thinking about his own law keeping, He was thinking about how well he's doing, But he didn't mention his richness, His wealth, But Jesus does, There are things that we're blind to, That could be well keeping us, From trusting in the Lord, But Jesus knows, God knows, And he focuses in on that, His riches, Go sell everything you've got, Give it to the poor, You will have treasure, But not earthly treasure, Then come, And commit yourself, To being one of my disciples, Follow me, And by this stage, Following Jesus, Was going to become a dangerous, Life, He's already spoken, About the coming crucifixion, Look at the response, His world was turned upside down, Disheartened by the saying, He went away sorrowful, For he had great possessions, Literally, He was appalled, He was shocked, He was saddened, The three things combined together there, He was shocked, He didn't expect it, He was appalled, By what was asked of him, And he was saddened, Genuinely saddened, Because he couldn't do it, He wanted eternal life, He wanted treasure in heaven, But when it came to the crunch, He was shocked, He didn't just shrug his shoulders, And go away, He was genuinely sad, Disheartened by the saying, He went away sorrowful, For he had great possessions, His world was turned upside down, Jesus can do that, Shock you, Appall you, Even sadden you, He can bring you to the point, Where you thought you were doing so well, Going this direction, And then, He seems to stop you in your tracks,

[39 : 13] And makes you question, What's going on, In your life, Really? And he turns you inside out, And your world, And your world view, Upside down, Who you thought you were, You realise, That's not the person I actually am, That rich young man, Could thereafter say, Perhaps, Do you know what, In public, In public, I went up, And asked Jesus, What must I do, To inherit eternal life, In public, I confessed, That I kept, All of these commands, And in public, In public, I walked away, When I was promised, Treasure in heaven, So these are, Things I think, The rich young man, Could have said, I wanted the best, That God could give, I thought Jesus, Was the answer, Jesus turned my heart,

Inside out, Jesus turned my life, Upside down, I think, The last thing though, Is really important, Jesus, Did not leave me, Without hope, Jesus, Did not leave me, Without hope, Do you know what, It's very interesting, The rich young man, Did not say, No, He didn't say no, He was disheartened, He was shocked, He was appalled, He was sorrowful, And he went away, But he didn't say no, It's very interesting, The section, That follows that, Jesus says to the people, Do you know how hard it is, For rich people, To enter the kingdom of God, And he said it twice to them, Children,

How difficult it is, To enter the kingdom of God, Seize it for a camel, To go through the eye of a needle, Than for a rich person, To enter the kingdom of God, And they were astonished, And they said, Who then can be saved, You would expect perhaps, That the poor might be bitter, And not go to God, But you often find the opposite, But you'd expect, Maybe the rich like Abraham, Would just trust in the God, Who has made them wealthy, Jesus says, No, Doesn't work like that, It's so difficult, For the rich, And what do they say, Who then can be saved, And beautifully, Jesus says, With man it is impossible, He could have pointed, To that rich young man, And says, See that man, It would be impossible, For that man, To enter the kingdom of God, With man, It is impossible, But not with God, With God,

All things are possible, I would like to think, That that rich young man, Heard that, Or that somebody ran, And told him, What Jesus said, With God, All things are possible, Yes, That was quite a challenge to you, But with God, All things are possible, There are too many people, Who just, Very quickly, Receive Jesus, And then later, Turn away from him, This young man, Perhaps, Like so many of us, Needs time to weigh things, Count the cost, Not just make an impulsive decision, We don't know, But I know,

That Jesus did not leave that man, Without hope, Do you know what, He would always remember, He looked at me, He loved me, And sometimes, It could be a lifetime, Before God, Will do the impossible, And that that would be blessed, To him, And to us, Let us pray, Our heavenly father, We would pray, That you would, Continue to bring your word, Home to us, With the power of your spirit, Don't leave us Lord, The way we are, Continue to expose us, Through your word, We pray, We pray that you would show us, Thy self, We pray Lord, That you would show us, Ourselves in your sight, And then show us, Yourself again Lord, We would pray, That you would, Be pleased to remember, Everyone in the congregation, Today, And those for whom we pray Lord,

[44 : 21] You are the God, With whom, All things are possible, Work Lord, Work mightily, We would pray, In Jesus, Amen.