



Sons of Saint Joseph tm

ST. THERESA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
5301 MAIN STREET TRUMBULL, CT 06611
www.sonsofsaintjoseph.org

SOSJ Discipleship 1: Total Commitment Saturday, October 19, 2024

Mark: 10: 16-31

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother.'" He replied and said to him, "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to (the) poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. So Jesus again said to them in reply, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through (the) eye of (a) needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were exceedingly astonished and said among themselves, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God." Peter began to say to him, "We have given up everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come. But many that are first will be last, and (the) last will be first."

Questions

1. This passage reminds us that heaven is not guaranteed; we must choose Christ; total commitment is beyond the Ten Commandments. Why is self-denial of even things of even non-sins so important to getting to heaven? Why are the 10 commandments not by themselves a full way to get to heaven?
2. When Christ raises the bar on the rich man he walks away very sad. Have we come to any moments when we realized our life was insufficiently committed to Christ, or even erroneous? What was our immediate response, to change or be defensive? How does humility apply here?
3. Jesus' Jewish audience equated material blessings with God's blessing. Christ reveals that material possessions are a risk because we easily form attachments to them: they give us pleasure or security, which can subtly take God's place in the heart. Pride and ego also are unhealthy possessions. How have material or non-material attachments gotten in my way in my life? What helps to overcome these attachments?
4. Many things indicate unhealthy attachment; angry impatience, passive aggressive treatment of others, lack of commitment to prayer, grudges, controlling other people, too much computer time, etc. What can we teach our children about the many unhealthy attachments through words and example?