

Giving up for the Kingdom of God
Mark 10:13-31

"We must never forget that Jesus feels love and compassion for the souls of the ungodly. Without controversy He feels a distinguishing love for those who hear His voice and follow Him. They are His sheep, His bride, joined to Him in an everlasting covenant, and dear to Him as part of Himself. But the heart of Jesus is a wide heart. He has abundance of pity and compassion and concern even for those who are following sin and the world. He who wept over unbelieving Jerusalem is still the same. He would still gather into His bosom the ignorant and self-righteous, the faithless and impenitent, if they were only willing to be gathered (Matthew 23:37). We may boldly tell the chief of sinners that Christ loves him [her]. Salvation is ready for the worst of men if they will only come to Christ. If men are lost, it is not because Jesus does not love them and is not ready to save. He own solemn words unravel the mystery: Men love the darkness rather than the light (John 3:19) You are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life (John 5:40). J.C. Ryle

- I. The kingdom of God is something to be received not achieved. The kind of gift our loving Father gives does not expect nor want anything in exchange for it. To think that a person needs to give something to God to receive the gift of his kingdom shows that they really don't want anything freely given to them. It also shows that they don't value or respect the generosity of the giver, let alone the value of the gift he has to offer. In other words, their pride prevents them from receiving with joy and gratitude God's offer of eternal life.

Mark 10:13-16
Eph. 2:8-9
Rom. 6:23

Augustus Toplady's hymn "Rock of Ages" includes this line: "Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling." These lyrics wonderfully encapsulate Jesus' teaching in Mark 10:13-16. We come into the kingdom only by admitting that we have nothing to give, that all we can do is rely on Christ for grace and forgiveness. But once we are in the kingdom, we continue to come to Him admitting the same things. We never lose our need to depend wholly on Jesus.
Sproul

- II. Like with the rich young ruler, it is difficult for us to see what the idols we worship are. They seem benign and harmless, yet they can have powerful control over the affection of the heart. In fact, our idols are a roadblock to fully benefitting from the grace of Christ. For an unbeliever, their idol(s), be it money, pride, accomplishments, self, identity, sex, pleasure, religion, or anything else the world has to offer, will keep them out of the kingdom of God unless they are willing to repent and give them up for Christ. For believers, any idols we embraced before salvation should have been buried and forgotten long ago.

Mark 10:17-22

Ps. 107:1-2

Mt. 6:21

Mt. 6:19

John 17:1-3 *After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ²For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

- III. If the gift of eternal life is free, then there is nothing that can prevent receiving the gift except an unwillingness to receive it. There is no sin no matter how egregious, no thought, attitude, or action that can keep the gift of salvation from being offered. Once received, the gift in all its glory rebirths us into holy, blameless children of God. That means we are to offer ourselves as living sacrifices holy and pleasing to him. Whatever we choose to give up in this life, will be richly rewarded in the life to come. So why not be sold out to him and the gospel as we eagerly anticipate the trumpet call that will call us up to be with him.

Mark 10:24-31

Rom. 12:1-2

1 Thess. 4:16-18

"In the final account, it shall be found that no man has been a loser through giving up anything for the Lord Jesus Christ though he has his own method of deciding who are to be first and who are to be last." (Spurgeon)