

SECURING YOUR PLACE IN GOD'S KINGDOM

You can't earn an inheritance but you can make ready to receive God's gift.

Covenant Presbyterian Church

MARK 10:13-31

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Mark 10:13-16 The kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Mark 10:14b–16 ...“Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 “Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it *at all*.” 16 And He took them in His arms and *began* blessing them, laying His hands on them. ^{NASB}

Children can be childish (demanding, quick-tempered, stubborn, etc.), but what they always are is dependent, weak, vulnerable, in need of watching over and delivered from enemies and themselves. Adult disciples must see that they too are little ones: Mat 5:3 *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God.*

Mark 10:17-22 Seek first the age of God's good rule, laying aside what weakens God's grip on your heart.

17 As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” 18 And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. 19 “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.’ ” 20 And he said to Him, “Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up.” 21 Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, “One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” 22 But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property. ^{NASB}

10:17 You don't ask about your future unless you're appropriately unsure

Run towards Jesus when you're blessed with a sense of your insufficiency.

You can't earn what you have to inherit and receive (the problem of possessions—adulthood—independence)

Don't misunderstand what you're seeking: **Eternal life** ζωὴν αἰώνιον

Eternal (αἰώνιος, ov) 3. pertaining to a period of unending duration, *without end* [BDAG]

(Note the close relationship to αἰών, ὦνος, ὁ *era, time, age*) Mark 10:30 *the age to come*

Louw Nida Lexicon: The most frequent use of αἰώνιος in the NT is with ζωὴ 'life,' for example, ...'so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life' Jn 3.15. In combination with ζωὴ there is evidently not only a temporal element, but also a qualitative distinction. In such contexts, αἰώνιος evidently carries certain implications associated with αἰώνιος in relationship to divine and supernatural attributes. If one translates 'eternal life' as simply 'never dying,' there may be serious misunderstandings, since persons may assume that 'never dying' refers only to physical existence rather than to 'spiritual death.' Accordingly, some translators have rendered 'eternal life' as 'unending real life,' so as to introduce a qualitative distinction.

10:17 You can't earn an inheritance! John 17:1-3 1 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, 2 even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. 3 “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Brennan Manning tells of an Irish priest who saw a peasant joyously praying and praising God just off the village street. *You seem like you're close to God?* O YES, the poor man replied, *HE'S VERY FOND OF ME.*

John 1:12–13 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

10:18 Your good is never going to be good enough

What do we desire from Jesus, a pat on the back and some encouragement? Do we call Jesus *good* because we think him better and wiser by degree, therefore his word of blessing will give us comfort and encouragement?

Or do we see Jesus as better/best by substance—his life as from a different source than ours? Do we know him to be the way, the truth and the life, God incarnate, come to deliver a helpless, needy people?

10:19-22 Jesus pushes our foolish thinking further and then challenges us at the heart level—***Will you lay aside what you need to lay aside in order to follow me?***

10:21 *treasure in heaven*: are you preparing for the present age or the age to come?

Reality check: ***we always give according to our age!*** (present age or age to come)

Reality check: *to know Jesus is to follow him* (even when his call comes at difficult times)

How is your age showing? How are you not ashamed of him before men and women now (Mark 8:38)?

10:21 Don't miss Jesus' love towards this man whom he pushes towards the gospel!

Mark 10:23-27 To secure your place in the kingdom you've got to be God-delivered from the love of the present age to love the coming one.

23 And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, "How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!" 24 The disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25 "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." 26 They were even more astonished and said to Him, "Then who can be saved?" 27 Looking at them, Jesus said, "With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God."

Mat 6:19-21 store up treasures in heaven...for where your treasure is...

Luk 12:13-21 building bigger barns but not being rich towards God

Luk 16:19-30 the rich man and Lazarus

1 Timothy 6 17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.

Revelation 3 17 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,...

For whom did Christ die and why was his death necessary to deliver us? *Romans 3:21-26; 8:8-11*

Mark 10:28-31 To secure your place in the kingdom respond to his call to leave/follow & trust/invest in his promises; you'll receive hundred-fold now with more in the age to come.

28 Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You." 29 Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, 30 but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. 31 "But many *who are first* will be last, and the last, first."

10:29 *for my sake and the gospel's*: his gifts are given among his people, his church, as we in gospel-centered ways gather his flock. We lay down present-age lives to invest much time, talent treasure in the age-to-come.

10:30 *...along with persecutions* take up your cross and follow (Mark 8:34-35)

10:31 *many who are first will be last...* We guard our hearts lest we run his coming-age church in present- age ways.

Whose voice most shapes your life and your hope?