

## DEVOTIONAL FOR MATTHEW 19-21; MARK 10

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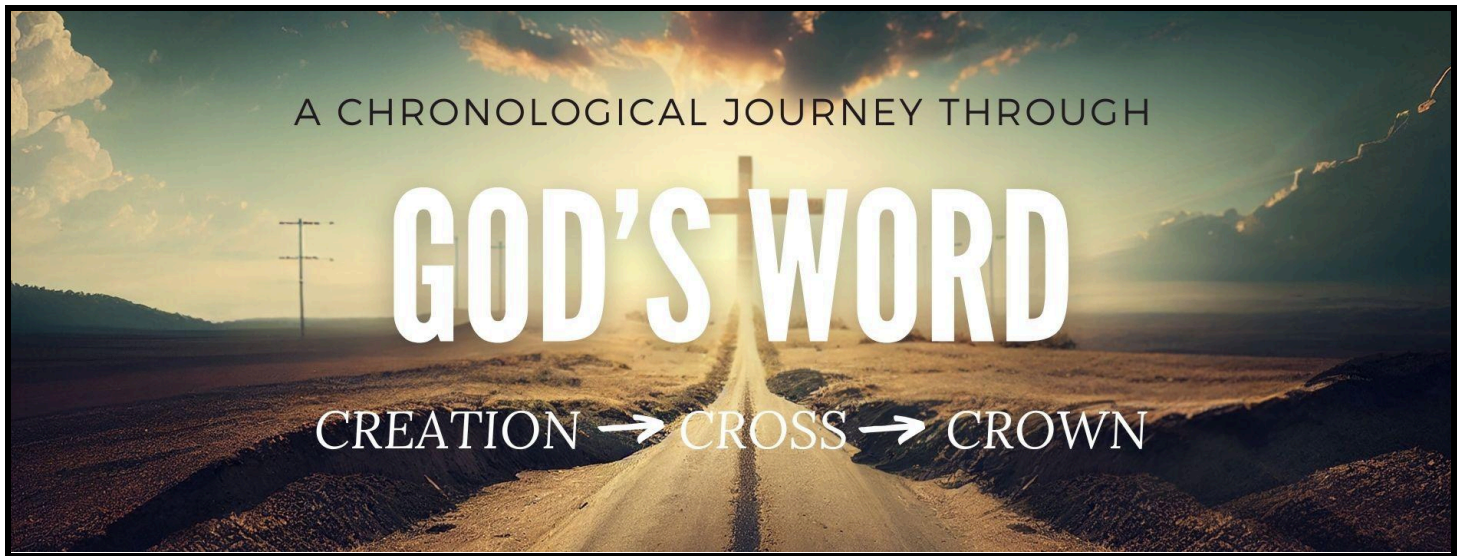
"What must I do to have eternal life?" This was the question the rich young man asked Jesus in Matthew 19 and Mark 10. This may be a question many of us have asked or pondered at some time in our lives.

What I find most interesting in this story is Jesus' response. "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 19:18-19). Do these sound familiar? All, except the last one, are from the Ten Commandments given to Moses in Exodus 20. The last one comes from Leviticus 19:18, but really summarizes the others. As I looked a little closer, I noticed that Jesus only listed the commandments that had to do with his horizontal relationships. Why do you think Jesus didn't also say "You shall have no other gods before me, You shall not make for yourself a carved image...." (Exodus 20:1-11)?

Jesus knew this young man's heart. While Mark 10 tells us that he ran up to Jesus and fell on his knees before Him, Jesus knew what his heart truly treasured. It's doubtful that even if Jesus had listed the other commandments (which this young man likely knew) that his response would've been any different: "All these I have kept" (Matthew 19:20; Mark 10:20). Yet, Jesus knew that his heart did have another god before Him.

I love this next part. "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"" (Mark 10:21). The NET says it in this way: "As Jesus looked at him, he felt love for him..." In Jesus' love, He revealed to this young man the truth of what his heart truly worshipped. Sadly, rather than choosing to follow Jesus in that moment, he walked away sorrowful, "for he was very rich" (Mark 10:22).

However, the story doesn't end there. Jesus explains to His disciples that "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" (Matthew 19:24). The disciples were astonished because in the Jewish belief, wealth signified God's favor. I'm sure they were also confused, not realizing yet that there was nothing man could do to save himself. Which is why Jesus' next words were so profound: "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God" (Mark 10:27; Matthew 19:26).



Man cannot save himself no matter what he does. Only God, through Christ, can bring salvation and eternal life. However, we must surrender everything on the throne of our heart in order for Him to take His rightful place there. He promises that whatever we give up will be eternally worth it. There is nothing of greater value than knowing and following Him!

**Questions:**

1. Is there something that would make you sorrowful if Jesus asked you to give it up?
2. How have you spent the majority of your time this last week? What has captivated the majority of your thoughts this last week? What could that say about what you treasure? Share with your Journey Group or other biblical community.
3. Do you understand the story above and what you must do to have eternal life? If not, please reach out to [pastoraloffice@stonepointchurch.com](mailto:pastoraloffice@stonepointchurch.com). We would love to have a conversation.