



## Connect Discussion Guide

5.16.21 Message | Andrew Kovar | Mark 10:17-31

### Key Scriptures:

*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?"...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.*

- Mark 10:17, 21-22

*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! 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 brothers or sisters 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."*

- Mark 10:23-31

*Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

- Acts 4:32-37

*For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?*

- Matthew 16:25-26

*But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.*

- 1 Timothy 6:6-7

**Message Highlights:**

- What often holds us back from following Jesus is that even though we want what he offers, we're afraid of what he might take away.
- Jesus does not hold back the truth that he requires full surrender from his followers.
- "'Faith' in Jesus includes bodily loyalty to him in baptism and thereafter." - Matthew Bates
- The New Testament is filled with stories of those who let nothing hold them back.
- Jesus demands from us everything we have only because he loves us and he wants to give us everything he has.
- "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." – Jim Elliot

**Conversation Starter:**

- Put yourself in the shoes of the rich man; how would you react if you were told to "sell all that you have"? What would be the hardest for you to give up and why?

**Discuss the Message:**

1. Oftentimes, that which holds people back from following Jesus is fear not of what he offers, but of what he might take away; have you ever experienced this fear? What do you fear he may take away from you? Discuss why and how we can find freedom in surrendering to Jesus, even in the face of uncertainty.
2. What was Jesus' command in Mark 10:21? Find the significant truth that is stated right before this command; what can you conclude about this command? How should that truth impact the way the rich man receives that command?
3. Discuss the disposition of Jesus toward the rich man. What virtues does Jesus display? Discuss what we can learn from this interaction as we seek to relate to one another in love, lacking any judgment.
4. What was the disciples' reaction to Jesus' remark in verse 23? Think through the tension the disciples were sorting through at that point. Beyond selling all of his possessions, what does Jesus call the rich man to? In other words, what is required of us in order to sacrifice for righteousness' sake?
5. Jim Elliot said, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." Share ideas with your group of ways in which you can practice such generosity for the sake of the kingdom.
6. What is holding you back from living a life fully-immersed in the life of Jesus Christ?

**Pray:**

*Father in Heaven, El Shaddai, God Almighty, with you, all things are possible. Forgive us for the times when we allow our grasp on control to hinder us from fully immersing ourselves into the life of your Son, Jesus our Christ. Help us, by the transforming power of your Holy Spirit, to trust you and follow you completely. Amen.*