

STEP 10 — LIVING HONESTLY

MARK 10:17-31

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’”

“Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?”

Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!”

“Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

THINKING IT THROUGH

STEP 10 OF RE:GENERATION: CONTINUE — *We **continue** to examine our lives and when we sin promptly confess and turn to walk with Christ.*

The rich young ruler is not a villain in this story. He is sincere. Moral. Respectable. Likely admired by all. He is eager. He runs to Jesus. He kneels. He asks the right question. And yet, something is off. Jesus knows it and gently shows it.

The man wants eternal life, but it seems he wants it added to a life he already controls. He wants Jesus to affirm him and endorse his life and style of living. Submission is not a considered option.

Step 10 calls us to something deeper than surface obedience. It invites us into ongoing, courageous honesty governed by an attitude of submission. It’s a submissive honesty that allows Jesus not only to affirm what is good in us, but to lovingly name what we lack. Jesus loves the man as he is but loves him too much to leave him there.

Did you notice the tenderness in the text? “Jesus looked at him and loved him.” Before Jesus exposes the idol, He expresses love. Living honestly and submissively begins with knowing we are fully known and fully loved by God. There is no need for fear or shame.

The young man had kept the commandments outwardly, but there is a deeper issue. In his heart, he trusted his wealth for security, identity, and control. His wealth wasn’t just money. It was his idol.

Jesus loves the man as he is but loves him too much to leave him there. Sadly, the man refuses the invitation for transformation. He walks away.

Jesus comments on the difficulty of people who trust in the idol of wealth to enter into the Kingdom of God.

The disciples were stunned: “Who then can be saved?” That’s the right question—a good question. Because if salvation depends on perfect surrender, none of us qualify. But Jesus says: “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

Step 10 is about staying close enough to Jesus that when He lovingly exposes something, we respond quickly. Prompt confession keeps our hearts soft.

Peter speaks up — “We have left everything!” — and Jesus assures him that surrender is never loss in the Kingdom. What feels like subtraction becomes multiplication. What feels like death becomes life.

Living honestly and submissively is not a one-time decision. It’s daily. “Lord, search me again. Show me what I’m clinging to. Give me the courage to let go.”

The goal is not outward compliance. The goal is a submissive, honest heart. The result? Joy, peace, and confidence.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

In what areas of my life do I want Jesus to affirm me more than transform me?

What might be the “one thing I lack” that Jesus lovingly wants to address in me right now?

How would my life look different if I fully believed that Jesus loves me too much to leave me where I am?

What step of obedience is Jesus calling me to take today, not later?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You look at us and love us. Thank You for loving us as we are, and for loving us too much to leave us there. Search our hearts. Expose what we cling to. Give us the courage to confess quickly and follow You fully. Keep our hearts soft, our repentance prompt, and our trust anchored in You. What is impossible for us is possible with You. We surrender again today. Amen

RE:GENERATION: <https://www.regenerationrecovery.org/>

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12 STEPS OF RE:GENERATION

STEP 1, ADMIT — We admit we are powerless over our addictions, brokenness and sinful patterns—that in our own power our lives are unmanageable.

STEP 2, BELIEVE — We come to believe that God is the one whose power can fully restore us.

STEP 3, TRUST — We decide to trust God with our lives and wills by accepting His grace through Jesus Christ.

STEP 4, INVENTORY — We make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

STEP 5, CONFESS — We confess to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our sins.

STEP 6, REPENT — We become entirely ready to turn away from our patterns of sin and turn to God.

STEP 7, FOLLOW — We humbly ask God’s Spirit to change our hearts and minds in order to follow Christ fully.

STEP 8, FORGIVE — We forgive those who have harmed us and become willing to make amends to those we have harmed.

STEP 9, AMENDS — We make direct amends whenever possible, submitting to God, his Word and biblical counsel.

STEP 10, CONTINUE — We continue to examine our lives and when we sin promptly confess and turn to walk with Christ.

STEP 11, INTIMACY — We seek to deepen our relationship with God daily and depend on his power to do his will.

STEP 12, REGENERATE — Because of our new lives in Christ, we carry God’s message of reconciliation to others and practice these biblical principles in every aspect of our lives.