

## **ALL IN A LIFE OF COMMITMENT**

### **MARK 10:13-31**

The big word for our seven sessions is COMMITMENT. When you commit, you entrust, consign, pledge, confide to another. You make a promise or a pledge.

So many people won't even commit to marriage anymore. They raise children together, unmarried. Within Christianity, how many attend church but refuse to commit to join the body? Why? Commitment brings responsibility. We wear wedding rings to symbolize our marriage, what symbol do you use to signify your Christianity?

Today's lesson is "Our Commitment to Christ". We will be studying two illustrious stories. You will need your Bible for Jesus' final explanation.

### **MARK 10:13-16 TRUSTING CHRIST**

We have heard about parents who brought their children to Jesus to be blessed. Jesus was upset with his disciples for discouraging this custom. How did He reprimand them? We must receive God's Kingdom as these little ones did. Think of a child's simple trust and receptivity that God loves us and forgives our sins. Remember 1 John 4:19: "We love because He first loved us". Complete intellectual understanding is not a child's requirement to trust.

### **MARK 10:17-20 INHERITING ETERNAL LIFE**

Our second story involves a man revering Jesus. He falls down before Him and calls Him "Good". Jesus responds to this by indicating—perhaps—that He is God. We know more about this man from various accounts. Matthew 19:20 says young; Mark 10:22 says rich; Luke 18:18 indicates he is a ruler. This man asks how to inherit eternal life, NOT how to follow Jesus!

Which commandments does Jesus refer to? (The six involving other people,) What is not mentioned? (The first four commandments—Matthew 22:37-40, Deuteronomy 5.) What does this young, rich, ruler lack?

### **MARK 10:21-22 COMMITTING TO CHRIST**

Jesus knew what this man lacked. Verse 21 tells us Christ loved him, and then He spoke of commitment.

Why doesn't Jesus ask all of us to give up everything when we follow Him? Our Sunday School Lesson says: "The Gospels record no other time Jesus called anybody to do that." (p.100)

## **MARK 10:23-31 REASSURING DISCIPLES**

In case we don't understand that this man loved his money more than he loved Jesus, Christ explained to his disciples that wealth was not always a blessing from God. They asked, "Who then can be saved?" (v. 26)

Jesus answered, "All things are possible with God." Commitment to follow Christ and the Gospel is what is needed. We receive a new family of believers (v. 29-30).

Verse 31 is very special. "Many who are first will be last, and the last first." This refers to humility. We can remember the first beatitude: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:3

### **LIVE IT OUT**

God—Help me to

Trust Fully in your Kingdom and Love.

"Trust and Obey"

Examine my heart for idols such as money, power, comfort, control, safety, approval, recognition

Renew my first love for Christ. Rekindle that daily relationship

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