

MARK

READ ALOUD: MARK 10:13-31

Pursue

In this week's text, Mark 10:13-31, the author paints a captivating picture of dependence. We see, pictured in contrast to one another, a child and a rich young man. One wholly dependent on Jesus for blessing and for kingdom citizenship, the other clinging to his efforts and earthly treasures for blessing and kingdom citizenship. One, eager to *receive* the blessing of Jesus (v.15), one, eager to *earn* the blessing of Jesus (v.17).

- **Like the rich young man, how are you tempted (in big or small ways) to earn the blessing and even salvation of God?**
- **Read Isaiah 55:1-3. Like the child, we come to God empty-handed and yet receive everything we need. What is one step you can take to walk in greater dependence on God this week?**

In his initial question to Jesus, the young man asks, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus responded by calling him to sell all of his possessions and follow him. However, the young man refuses. He treasures his earthly inheritance more than he treasures an eternal inheritance. This is a heartbreaking picture of idolatry. Idolatry is the worship of someone or something other than God as though it were God.

- **We are all inclined towards idolatry or misordered desires. Lord willing, he is working in us to remove these idols. However, what do you think Jesus would ask you today to give over and follow him? (Keep in mind, these can be "good", morally neutral, or outright sinful things.)**

Practice

Confess & Pray with One Another

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (James 5:16)

If we have answered the questions above we have confessed areas of self-reliance, self-righteousness, and idolatry. Spend time as a group praying asking the Holy Spirit to grant repentance, to heal, give freedom, and renew our reliance on God alone for our salvation & sanctification.

Proclaim

At the end of our text for this week the disciples are shocked by the news that it is easier for a camel to fit through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God. The disciples had cultural assumptions about what a blessed person would look like and have and Jesus' words fly in the face of those assumptions. Truly a camel going through a needle does sound impossible but Jesus replies, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." There are people in our lives that we have a hard time imagining would ever enter into the Kingdom of God. Perhaps it is their lifestyle, the posture of their heart towards God, or the suffering or pain they have experienced that makes us think they are too far from God. But nothing is impossible for God. Spend time today:

- Praying for someone in your life that you struggle to imagine knowing and loving and following Jesus.
- Pray for our missionaries who are on various fields sharing the gospel with people who have maybe never heard the good news of Jesus.