

16 And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands upon them.

Here Jesus gives an important lesson to the disciples on the importance and value of **children** in the **Kingdom**. **“13 And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, “Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”** Apparently, the disciples considered the children to be an annoying **distraction** but Jesus doesn’t think this at all, and this made him **“indignant.”** Moreover, He reminded them of the great importance of **child-like humility** He had earlier instructed them in (9:36-37). **“15 “Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it at all.”** Reminding them that the nature of **saving faith**, the kind that **enters** the kingdom of God, is humble and child-like (in weakness and humility). He then shows them the great importance of **receiving children** with the same **love** and **grace** as any **class** of **people**. **“16 And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands upon them.”** See here Jesus **elevated** the **status of children** in the world from this time forward.

**Mark 10:17-22** - 17 And as He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and began asking Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. 19 "You know the commandments, 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'"20 And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up." 21 And looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." 22 But at these words his face fell, and he went away grieved, for he was one who owned much property.

Jesus will now give the **disciples** an important **lesson** on **wealth** and self-righteousness. **“17 And as He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and began asking Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” 18 And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.”** See here the Lord begins to teach the man about **righteousness** before **God** by explaining that **“no one is good except God alone.”** This of course should have stopped the man in his tracks, but in order to **show him** that his **works** would never be **sufficient** to **please God** Jesus points

him to the **Ten Commandments**. **“19 "You know the commandments, 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.”** Now this man has no doubt been a religious Jew all his life, and here we see how **damning** their system of **self-righteous piety** was. The man actually thinks he has obeyed the Ten Commandments, which of course no man is capable of. **“20 And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up.”** Herein lies the greatest **hinderance to saving faith** there is, thinking one is **righteous in themselves** to be pleasing to God. **Blinded by self-righteousness**, one cannot see their great need for a **foreign righteousness**, not realizing that they are **alienated from God** in the greatest degree for this sin alone, not to mention the **many sins** which they have committed in their **lifetime**. But Jesus of course is not without compassion, even for a proud man as this, **“21 And looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”** Jesus knew that He could get right to the man’s attention by touching of his greatest idol which was of course his great wealth. **“22 But at these words his face fell, and he went away grieved, for he was one who owned much property.”** Not only was this man deceived by thinking he had obeyed God’s commandments, but he was wealthy and obviously had much love for his wealth, as he was grieved by Jesus request to **“go and sell all you possess, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”** The man surely **loved his wealth** more than **Jesus** and this of course is the great human condition of **depravity**. This is in fact why we **need** to be **born again**, for the human heart is **steeped in sin** to its core, and **every part** of people’s nature is **stained with sins influence**. Until the great redeeming work of regeneration has happened to the human soul, people are **blinded** by the **sin of self-righteousness, idolatry and pride**, and there is **no human remedy** for this **condition**. This is the **subject of the next lesson** Jesus has for His disciples.

**Mark 10:23-31** - 23 And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, "How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!" 24 And the disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25 "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." 26 And they were even more astonished and said to Him, "Then who can be saved?" 27 Looking upon them, Jesus said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God." 28 Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You." 29 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 farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, 30 but that he shall receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. 31 "But many who are first, will be last; and the last, first."

Jesus now will speak of the **inability** of **humanity** to **save themselves** and speak of the great need of the divine work of regeneration, and that only with the work of God can man be saved." **23 And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, "How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!"** **24 And the disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!** Here Jesus is wanting them to see just how **difficult** it is for **anyone** to be **saved**. In fact, it cannot be **accomplished** by any other means apart from a **divine work** of grace in the heart. Jesus then uses an **illustration** of just **how hard** it is, **impossible**. **"25 "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."** The point is clear as the noonday sun, and the disciples understood it clearly as well. **"26 And they were even more astonished and said to Him, "Then who can be saved?"** **27 Looking upon them, Jesus said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God."** Here is Jesus definitive statement on salvation and whether it can be accomplished apart from divine intervention. **"27 With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God."** Learn here dear Christian, the only **possible** way anyone can be **saved** is by the **work** of **God** Himself, powerfully changing the nature of people's hearts in **regeneration** (John 3:3-7, 1 Pet 1:3,23, Eze 11:19-21, 36:26-27, 1 Cor 2:12-16, Eph 2:5-9, 4:24, Col 2:13-14, Tit 3:5). And when that work is done by God, as **New Creatures in Christ** (2 Cor 5:17), we then have the desire to follow and possess **Jesus** above all our **earthly treasures**, and we also see our **desperate need** to be **saved** because of the **helpless state** of **sin** that God has shown us to be. When **God** has so **worked** in the human heart, we then **become willing** followers of Christ, and willing to give up all, should it be required, to follow Him. **"28 Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You."** **29 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 farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, 30 but that he shall receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. 31 "But many who are first, will be last; and the last, first."** Here the Lord reassuring those who have followed Him that their **reward** will be **great**, and not only in the life to come, but **even in this life**, although it will be accompanied with "persecutions." Let us consider the example

of the first disciples in their **willingness to leave everything to follow Jesus**, and let us long for that kind of **devotion to the Lord in our lives** as well.

**Mark 10:32-34** - 32 And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking on ahead of them; and they were amazed, and those who followed were fearful. And again He took the twelve aside and began to tell them what was going to happen to Him, 33 saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and will deliver Him to the Gentiles. 34 "And they will mock Him and spit upon Him, and scourge Him, and kill Him, and three days later He will rise again."

Now they are making their way up to Jerusalem, and Jesus will have a third conversation with them about His deadly fate that lies ahead. It appears that by now they have begun to grasp that He is headed for some serious trouble. **"32 And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking on ahead of them; and they were amazed, and those who followed were fearful."** The **disciples** knowing what Jesus was facing are **"amazed"** at His **courage** and resolute determination to forge ahead to His death. They must have also been wondering what fate might lie ahead for them as **"those who followed were fearful."** Jesus wanting to clearly inform them and **lovingly prepare** them for the third time since they were in Galilee tells them of His Passion, **"32 And again He took the twelve aside and began to tell them what was going to happen to Him, 33 saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and will deliver Him to the Gentiles. 34 "And they will mock Him and spit upon Him, and scourge Him, and kill Him, and three days later He will rise again."** Jesus again reiterates several **key points** about what will happen;

- **the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes** – It is the Jewish religious leaders who instigate His murder
- **and they will condemn Him to death**, - there will be an official hearing where Jesus will be unjustly condemned by His own people
- **and will deliver Him to the Gentiles.** – They will hand Him over to others to do the dirty work, although they clearly bear a large part of responsibility
- **34 "And they will mock Him and spit upon Him, and scourge Him, and kill Him**, - This common Roman way of treating condemned criminals was well known by all, it was a horrific plight for those condemned by Rome