



Choose Jesus

(Mark 10:17-30) — The Rich Young Man

Choosing Jesus

- C** — Choosing Jesus
- H** — Holding to His Word
- O** — Obeying His Commands
- O** — Opening Your Life to Community
- S** — Serving the Kingdom
- I** — Investing in Others
- N** — Nurturing Faithfulness
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Mark 10:17-30 (ESV)

¹⁷ 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?” 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, all these I have kept from my youth.” ²¹ 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.” ²² Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

²³ 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!” ²⁴ 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! ²⁵ 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.” ²⁶ And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.” ²⁸ Peter began to say to him, “See, 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 lands, for my sake and for the gospel, ³⁰ 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.

● **Story:** PLAYING POKER WITH MY GRANDFATHER (going “all in”)

Jesus made it clear, to follow Him, you must be “all in”?

(Luke 9:23-25) — And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him *deny himself* and take up his cross *daily* and follow me. ²⁴For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

What does it mean to be all in?

It means I’m wagering all I have and all I am on Who Jesus is and what Jesus has said. I’m trusting fully in Him and His Word. I’m clinging to Jesus alone to save me, to sustain me, and to satisfy me. My life and my worship all belong to Him alone. **I choose Jesus.**

What is The Church?

The **Church** is every person past, present, and future from every tribe, tongue, and nation who says with their life, “**I choose Jesus!**”

- They are choosing Jesus, as opposed to what the world is choosing.

Who is the Rich Young Man?

- Young
- A man of wealth
- A religious man
- A ruler in the synagogue (we learn this is Luke’s account)
- He was well established and had everything going for him (in this culture)

(Verse 17-20) —

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?”
¹⁸And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹You 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.’ ” ²⁰And he said to him, “Teacher, *all these I have kept* from my youth.”

◆ #1 — He believed a lie

What is the lie?

- *“If I’m good enough, I can go to heaven.”*

How do we know he believed this?

- (Vs 17) - “What must I **do** to inherit eternal life?”
- (Matt. 19:16) - “What good deed must I **do** to inherit eternal life?”
- (Vs 20) - “All these I’ve kept from my youth” - (emphatic - I’ve done this!)

Jesus confronted the lie

- (Vs 18) - “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.”
- Jesus is thinking — “Do you think I’m good because of what I **do**?”
- Jesus is good, not because of what He does, but because of Who He is.

◆ What does the Bible say about our being good?

OUR DOING WILL NEVER BE GOOD ENOUGH

- (Isaiah 64:6) — We have all become like one who is unclean, and *all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment*.

NO ONE IS GOOD

- (Romans 3:10–12) — As it is written: “*None is righteous, no, not one*; ¹¹no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹²All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; *no one does good, not even one*.”

- **NOTE:** If my eternal life is based on anything I can or must **do**, then my trust and dependance is on me and not on God.

- **Peter’s first encounter with Jesus:**

(See the contrast between Peter and this young man)

Jesus had just helped them miraculously catch so much fish that their nets were breaking.

Luke 5:8 — And when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”

(Verse 21-22) —

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.” ²²Disheartened by the saying, *he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.*

◆ #2 — He was clinging to an idol

What is an idol?

- *(From John Piper):* An idol is anything we love, crave, depend on, or trust more than God, or anything we rely on in place of Him for our ultimate satisfaction, guidance, or blessing.... if we “crave, love, depend upon, and trust” things like praise, money, power, or even family for our ultimate satisfaction instead of God, “then in essence we are doing what idolatry has always done.”
 - Only God can truly sustain you and take care of you
 - Only God can truly keep you safe
 - Only God can truly fulfill and satisfy the longing in your heart

Jesus confronted his idolatry - *(his wealth & riches)*

- “You lack one thing” — Let go of your idol and follow me.

He didn't believe Jesus

- “You will have treasure in heaven.”

◆ What does the Bible say about clinging to idols?

YOU CAN'T SERVE TWO MASTERS

- (Matthew 6:19–21, 24) —
“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...*

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

[**You cannot serve God and something else**]

● TWO QUESTIONS:

1. Are you all in, or are you clinging to an idol?
2. Are you all in, or are you trying to serve God *and* something else?

◆ #3 — Jesus is the only way to eternal life

(Verse 23-24) — 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!”
²⁴And the disciples were *amazed* at his words.

It's hard for rich people to be saved

- The disciples were amazed - they thought this guy was a great candidate
- **We** would have thought he was a great candidate
- Why is it hard for the wealthy to be saved? — **Wealth can mask our need**

(Verse 24-26) — But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶And they were *exceedingly astonished*...

Jesus doubles down - It's hard to be saved (**impossible**)

- *Camel through the eye of a needle*: The camel is the largest land animal in Palestine, and the eye of a needle was the smallest opening in a home.
- Jesus is saying - it is impossible (not just for the wealthy, but for anyone)

(Verse 26-27) — ...and [they] said to him, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, “*With man it is impossible*, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.”

Who can be saved?

- No one except for a miraculous work of God
- How does this happen? — by the word of God: “faith comes by hearing...”

◆ What does the Bible say about Jesus being the way?

JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY (TO BE SAVED)

- (John 14:6) — Jesus said ..., “I am *the way*, and the truth, and the life. *No one comes to the Father except through me.*”
- Peter speaking of Jesus before the elders and religious leaders — (Acts 4:12) - “...there is salvation in no one else, for there is *no other name* under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

● NOTE: Only Jesus can save you

- It is impossible for your good works to save you.
- It is impossible for your religious acts to save you.
- It is impossible for church attendance to save you.
- It is impossible for doing Bible study or going to small group to save you.
- It is impossible for Bible knowledge to save you.
- It is impossible for giving money and offerings to save you.
- It is impossible for the faith of your parents or grandparents to save you.

● **Your only option is to choose Jesus!**

(Verse 28-30) —

Peter began to say to him, “See, *we have left everything and followed you.*” ²⁹Jesus 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, ³⁰who 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.*”

◆ #4 — Jesus is the ultimate treasure

Peter and the disciples were “all in” — (*we’ve left everything...*)

- Jesus makes an awesome promise to them — What ever you may lose in order to obey Christ is no comparison to what you will gain from Christ - (*The promise is a hundred fold return in this life & in the age to come eternal life*)
- Jesus is such a valuable treasure, He is worth leaving everything - “houses, money, lands, brothers, sisters, mothers, father, and children”
- Do you consider Jesus this valuable?

Jesus promises the blessing of the Church

- You will receive in this life “houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands” - in this age

◆ What does the Bible say about treasuring Christ?

THE PARABLE OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE

- (Matthew 13:44) — “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

THE PARABLE OF THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

- (Matthew 13:45–46) — “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

PAUL'S GREATEST TREASURE WAS CHRIST

- (Philippians 1:21) — For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

- **NOTE:** It is important to notice, although the rich young man seemed to have everything, he was still unfulfilled. That is why he sought out Jesus. **Only Jesus can satisfy.**

Closing

Jesus is calling us to a journey

- A journey with Jesus to Jesus. He says, “Follow Me and I will lead You to myself — FOLLOW ME TO ME”
- This is the Jesus Journey and it is about CHOOSING JESUS EVERY DAY.

Jesus demands our ALL (every day)

(Luke 9:23–25) — And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross *daily* and follow me. ²⁴For whoever would save his life will lose it, but *whoever loses his life for my sake will save it*. ²⁵For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

Are you “all in”?

● CHALLENGE: Let’s do a self evaluation

- If someone were to make an assessment of your day to day life, would they find that you are choosing Jesus every day?
- Does the investment of your time and resources every day communicate that Jesus is the greatest treasure?
- Are you clinging to or trusting in something other than Jesus for your safety, well-being, joy, or fulfillment?
- What change needs to happen in your life right now that you might truly be choosing Jesus every day?