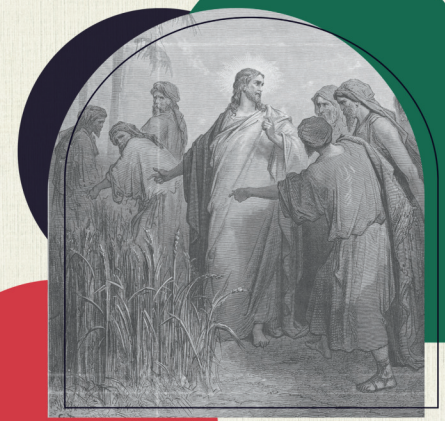


January 14, 2024

CHILDLIKE SURRENDER

Pastor Jason Uptmore // Mark 10:13-31



PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.



13 And they were bringing children to Him so that He would touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. 14 But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Allow the children to come to Me; do not forbid them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all." 16 And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them. 17 As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do so that I may inherit eternal life?" 18 But 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 give false testimony, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" 20 And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth." 21 Looking at him, Jesus showed love to him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." 22 But he was deeply dismayed by these words, and he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property. 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 responded 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 person to enter the kingdom of God." 26 And they were even more astonished, and said to Him, "Then who can be saved?" 27 Looking at them, Jesus said, "With people 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 have 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 will 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."



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REFLECT/CONNECT

Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

- In what ways were you encouraged by last week's study?

- What are some possessions you find valuable?

These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

GROW IN THE WORD

- 01.** The crowds brought children to Jesus for blessing, but his disciples rebuked those who brought the children. This angered Jesus, and he told his disciples to let the children come to him. Jesus explained that the kingdom of God belonged to those who received it like a child, and he took the children and personally blessed them (v. 13-16).

- Why do you think the disciples prevented the children from coming to Jesus?

- What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God "like a child"? See also Psalm 131:1-3; Jeremiah 17:7-8; Matthew 18:3-4.

- In what ways can your thoughts and attitudes better reflect the simple, dependent, and childlike trust that Jesus points to in this passage?

02. A rich, young ruler approached Jesus and asked him what he could do to inherit eternal life. Jesus challenged the man to sell all he possessed and to follow him. Then, Jesus explained to his disciples how difficult it is for the wealthy to enter God's kingdom. Peter declared that he and the disciples had given everything to follow Jesus, and Jesus promised great reward for those who did likewise (v. 17-31).

- What assumption about eternal life lies behind the rich young ruler's question to Jesus? Consider the main point of Jesus' teaching in the previous passage. See also Titus 3:4-7; Galatians 2:16.



GROW IN THE WORD

- How does Jesus' promise of reward in verses 29-31 motivate you to do as his disciples did and surrender all for him? Consider also Revelation 22:12; Matthew 5:12.

- What do you believe God is calling you to surrender for his sake in this season of life? Take a moment to pray and seek God's guidance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEN'S SUMMIT RETREAT

February 23 - 25 | Camp Eagle

This year's Summit is about activating our faith despite the things that hinder us and taking the next best small step. Join us to hear encouraging testimonies and biblical teachings that will challenge you to activate your faith. Learn more and register online!

WOMEN'S MUG & MUFFIN GROUPS

Friday, February 9 | 9:30 am or 7 pm

Ladies, you are invited to join others from your area for a time devoted to building deeper friendships. Each group will have a short devotional and spend time getting to know one another in a relaxed and small-group environment. Learn more and register online!

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Pray to begin your group time. Remind the group why you are meeting: to connect in meaningful relationships, to grow spiritually, and to engage in the life and work of the church together. Reflect on the values you want to share as a group (i.e. confidentiality, authenticity, grace).

CONNECT (30-40 MIN)

You can use these suggestions to foster connection and build community in your group. You can break your group into smaller parts if needed, pick a question to discuss, and let each member get to know one another.

- Spend a few minutes catching up with one another. Discuss some highs and lows you had over the last week. Follow-up with any previous prayer requests.
- Ask the second question in the Connect section of the passage guide and give each person a chance to respond.

GROW (30-40 MIN)

Gather back as a big group if you broke up earlier and have one person pray over your time discussing God's word. As you discuss, don't worry if there are questions left unanswered or unresolved. Reach out to ministry leaders or pastors for any needed clarification.

- Select 2-3 questions that have cross-references. Pick questions that stand out to you, or that you believe would be most helpful for your group.
- Read any cross-references together and discuss.

ENGAGE (30-40 MIN)

Reflect on the biblical truth God revealed to you this week and discuss a plan of action to apply what you have learned. Gather in smaller groups of 2-4 again. Discuss your plan of action and pray for one another.

- Discuss the last two questions in each section of the passage guide. Encourage your group to discuss ways to actively apply the passage.
- Close group time by sharing prayer requests and praying for one another.