



Outsiders

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The Safest Surrender Week of October 10, 2021

Intro Discussion Question(s):

- *What have you learned most in your study of God's Word this week?*

Read Bible Study Summary:

In Colossians 4:5, Christians are challenged to “be wise in the way you act toward outsiders” and “make the most of every opportunity.” What better way to understand how to do this than to look at our Savior’s interactions with, and passion for those outside the family of God. We have heard about His heart to leave the ninety-nine to save the one. We have learned of His love toward a woman who was seen as the worst of sinners by the Pharisees. We have read of God’s power to deliver a man possessed by many demons. And today, we will look at Christ’s authority and his call to outsiders to surrender their lives to him in faith through an encounter that he had with a rich young ruler.

Main Scripture

- **Mark 10:17-31**

What does Jesus’ interaction with the rich ruler teach us about ministry to outsiders?

1. Outsiders Are Sinners at Their Best (Mark 10:17-21)¹

- **The Rich Man “Had it All”** - In context, Jesus had just finished a discussion about receiving the kingdom of God with faith like a child. As he was leaving a rich man ran to him, and in front of the crowd, he fell on his knees at Jesus’ feet. As a rich ruler, we can discern that he had much to be proud of: position, possessions, power, and prestige. But, according to the story, we also see that he was enthusiastic to learn, humble enough to ask, and discerning enough to see that because of Jesus’ goodness, he would have the answer for his question “What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹Some of the following content is adapted from the sermon, Adrian Rogers, *Three Strikes and You’re Out* (Love Worth Finding Ministries, 2021). Available at <https://www.lwf.org/sermons/audio/three-strikes-and-youre-out-2151>.

- **He “Had it all” But Still Had Nothing** - We also learn that he considered himself morally clean. Outwardly, he did not steal, he was not an adulterer, a liar, he did not take the Lord’s name in vain, he was a good man. However, Jesus showed him two important truths: (1) He (the rich man) was not actually a good man. (2) He (Jesus) is God. If he is not, then he is not ultimately good. Pastor Adrian Rogers says, “he wasn’t bowing his knee to Jesus as God, but instead, was merely tipping his hat to Jesus as a good man.” No one is good except God alone. And, it is a tragedy when people believe that human goodness is the means for salvation and acceptance into the kingdom of God.
- **The Law Condemns Sin** - The reality is that the law by which people judge their goodness, is the same law that God uses to condemn them. Jesus showed the rich man that though he thought he had kept all the commandments, he was still guilty of breaking them. Everything he did outwardly may have looked right, but God’s holy law is spiritual and deals with the heart (what is on the inside). You see, God’s grace will mean nothing to a person until he sees himself as a sinner. Jesus wanted the man to know he broke the commandments. He was covetous in his heart. He idolized gold more than God. He loved his money more than his neighbor. He couldn’t earn salvation by commandment-keeping.
- **Read Romans 3:10-12** - *As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”*
- **Ask Questions:**
 - *Have you ever struggled in your life believing that your own goodness will get your eternal life? Explain.*
 - *What are other scriptures that you can think of that speak to the false understanding of “earning your way to salvation?”*
 - *Have you ever had a conversation with an (outsider) who believes his goodness is the means for God’s acceptance of him and inheriting eternal life. How did you share the truth with him/her? If you haven’t ever had a conversation like this, what would you say if you ever are in this position?*

2. Whatever Master a Man Chooses Will Master That Man (Mark 10:22-31)²

- Jesus said, **“One thing you still lack.”** Jesus called the man to sell all he had and then come follow him. Jesus showed the man his error in believing in his own goodness and now pinpointed a deeper issue of the heart. This man’s master was his money, and Christ was calling the man to turn from the idol of money and turn to the master of immortality.
- Jesus was calling for this man to repent and believe in order to surrender his life and be saved. This is the only way one can enter the Kingdom of God. An individual must repent and believe. Repentance and belief are two sides of the same coin. Repentance emphasizes turning from, and belief emphasizes turning to, however the action happens all together. Heads and tails are on the same coin.
- **“Then who can be saved?”** The disciples wondered if the rich are automatically excluded from being saved. They thought well there must be some that are able to be saved and some that aren’t, and rich people fall outside the limits. Jesus helped correct their confusion. He said, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.” The rich man can be saved but only by the miraculous power of God. This statement describes salvation for anyone. Entering the Kingdom of God is impossible for any man. Yet, God offers his miraculous power to forgive our sins in Jesus’s work on the cross. When you repent and believe you are surrendering your personal efforts to achieve salvation and trusting God’s power to save you through the work of his son. It is the safest surrender.

²Ibid.

- **Read Scriptures**

- *Romans 1:16 - "The gospel, Jesus's work, is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe."*
- *Mark 1:15 - Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news."*
- *Acts 2:38 - Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."*

- **Ask Questions:**

- *In what ways do you think riches and material possessions are hindrances to eternal life for some people? Why do you think money has such a powerful effect on people?*
- *Read verses 29-31 again. What are the rewards of Christ and living in Christ that we can share with outsiders? Think about it this way...If you had a similar interaction with a rich ruler today, what would you say would be the eternal rewards and the present life rewards of following Christ.*
- *How does this story challenge you? How does it encourage you?*

Evangelism Preparation

A. Share the Gospel from Scripture (The Romans Road)

- Have someone practice sharing the gospel using these five Scriptures. Use your Bible. It may not be easy determining what to say transitioning between the Scriptures, but that is okay. Perhaps other group members can help.

Romans		
3:23	We Are All Sinners	For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
6:23	Consequence of Sin	For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord
5:8	God Loves Sinners	But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
10:9	You Can Be Saved	If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved
10:13	God's Promise	Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Closing

- **Ask Question** - *What is the greatest challenge you are facing right now? Is there some way our group can help you specifically?*
- Pray together over those requests.