

THE GREATEST AMONG YOU 6



Mark 10:28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.

- The rich young ruler desired earthly goods and accolades from others regarding his possessions more than he desired to be with Jesus. *1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*
- A true believer will sacrifice what is not sure for that which is sure. Worldly possessions should never hinder our trust in God. *1 Tim. 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;*
- When Jesus chose the 12, they trusted him. They walked away from what seemed secure in order to secure eternal life. *Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

Mark 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

Mark 10:30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

- Jesus is reassuring the disciples that they did the right thing by forsaking all to follow Him. Some even left the mentality of family, friends, etc. for the sake of Christ. *Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*
- Christ also speaks of a greater blessing that is given to those for choosing Him. Jesus promises a hundredfold restoration of all that was sacrificed for the sake of the gospel. The phrase "... in this time", speaks of the present blessing of better relationships and even

restored relationships with family. *Is. 26:3* Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

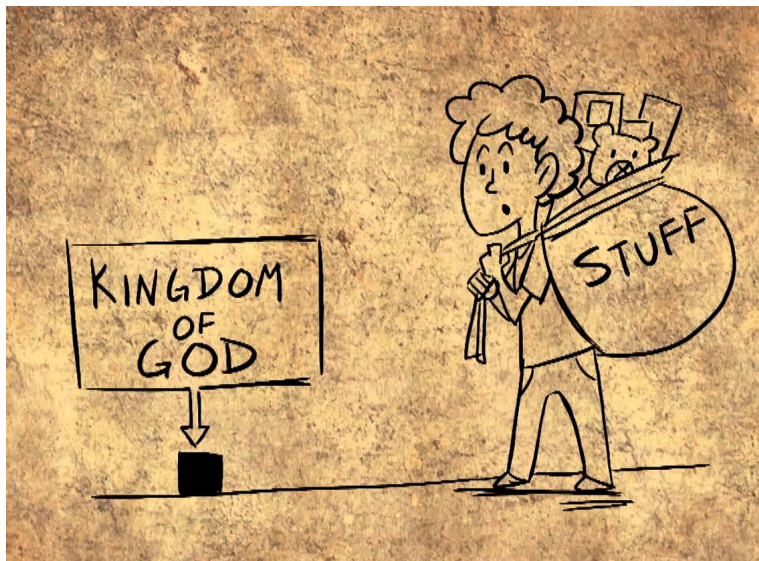
- Even though these things will come with persecution, if we suffer for Christ's sake now, we will not only be rewarded with a hundredfold blessing in this life, but we will reign with Him and receive eternal life. *2Tim. 2:12* If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

Mark 10:31 But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.

- The desire to be first in this life has shackled many believers and caused them to fall in love with power and prestige. *Phil. 3:19* Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)
- The church is the main target in these plights because nowadays people are easily deceived and readily accept false doctrines, so it requires little effort to build a large following. *Jude 18* How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.
- Those that desire to be first in this life will be last. This desire is not from Christ but from the devil. When we seek to be first in the eyes of men, we are not seeking the will of God. *1Pet. 5:5* Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Summary

The rich young ruler aspired to look a certain way in front of others. He wanted to use Jesus to enhance his reputation and make others see how great he was. Jesus perceived this and challenged him with the one thing that would be hardest to give up, in order to follow Him. When we come to Christ, whatever makes us feel great or better than others needs to be checked at the door. Accepting Christ is accepting the backseat to Him. He must lead and guide our lives or else we did not truly accept Him, but rather we held on to what and who we were. Becoming a new creation means that old things are passed away and we are made brand new. We are cleansed from our sins and given a brand new start. So, if we desire for our sins to be forgotten, then we must give



up all that we were to follow Christ. But if we desire to hold on to the opinions and accolades of our former lives, then we may have to pay the price for those previous sins as well. Were we really made brand new or did we fail to truly change?

Mark 10:20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

Mark 10:21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

Mark 10:22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

Mark 10:23 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

Mark 10:24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!

Mark 10:25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Mark 10:26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?

Mark 10:27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.