

The Jesus We Never Knew
“More Than Gold”
Mark 10: 13-31

The Little Children and Jesus

¹³People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

The Rich Young Man

¹⁷As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁸"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹You 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"Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

²¹Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

²²At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

²³Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

²⁴The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard 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 man to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁶The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"

²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

²⁸Peter said to him, "We have left everything to follow you!"

²⁹"I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Mark 10: 13-31 (NIV)

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Questions for personal and small group study and reflection:

1. What kind of answer was the rich man expecting from Jesus in response to his question: "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" What kind of answer did Jesus give to him? (10:18-21)
2. Some people feel that wealth is a sign of God's pleasure in their lives, but how can wealth actually be a hindrance to us as we follow after Jesus? What obstacles tend to get in the way of people entering the kingdom of God? What is it that keeps you from following after Jesus wholeheartedly? Has there been any evidence of the Lord's help in your own life as these obstacles were removed and overcome for you?
3. How have the Pharisees and the rich man failed to receive the kingdom of God like a child? (10:15) In what areas of your life do you need to express more childlike faith in God? In what areas of your life is Jesus asking you to change your thinking or your actions as you follow Him?
4. What was Peter trying to say in verse 28? How did Jesus reassure him? What are the rewards and/or the challenges of those who desire to follow the Lord completely?
5. Where do you place your faith? What do you put your hope on? What is it you lean on for your sense of security? What are things in your life that you need to let go of, so as to not let it have control over you? Let it go, release it to God, and you will be free from its grip. What to you is more than gold?