

Bible Study – Mark 10.17-31

Q1 What was the rich man looking for? Why and how did he approach Jesus?

Q2 Jesus answers by restating some of the 10 commandments. What is the focus of the ones he quotes in v19?

Q3 Look at the 10 commandments in Exodus 20.1-17. How do the commandments Jesus leaves out relate to his challenge in verse 21?

Many Jews in Jesus' day divided time into the *present age* (full of sin, injustice, lying and oppression. Good people suffering, bad people getting away with it) and the *age to come* (when God will rule and everything will be different)

Q4 Why are the disciples shocked that wealth won't buy a place in the age to come (vv23-26)?

Q5 From your own experiences and observations, would you say riches are a blessing or a curse?

Jesus reassures the disciples that by God's grace *anyone* (rich or poor) can enter the kingdom of God (v27). But salvation can only be received 'like a child' (v15).

Q6 List the childlike qualities that enable someone to receive the kingdom of God. Also list the characteristics which might prevent someone from receiving the kingdom. Does this list highlight any areas you need to work on?

Q7 How can we make sure our riches don't prevent us from wholeheartedly following Jesus?

When Peter and the others wonder what reward they will receive, Jesus looks forward to the church, a community of intimacy a hundred times greater than anything sacrificed for the sake of God's work. However, he also warns that persecution will come for his followers.

Q8 How well do you think the Church lives up to Jesus' description of a community rich in blessings and relationships (v30)?

Q9 What should we make of Jesus's enigmatic warning in verse 31?