

All Age Sermon – Mark 10.17-31

A sad incident

A failure by Jesus?

Disturbing for the disciples and for us.

Outline

- An earnest seeker, religious and well-off
- Recognises something lacking and comes to Jesus
- Jesus' answer opens the door but the man can't go through – goes away disappointed

What went wrong?

- What must I DO ... (there's nothing you can do)
- Assumption that prosperity is a sign of God's blessing
- Assumption that J would answer with a small extra rule to follow
- Captive to his possessions, he can't take the step necessary to free himself and follow Jesus. Goes away *grieving*...
- Had everything except what mattered most – freedom from power of possessions and faith in Jesus

What disturbed the disciples?

- If J could turn a good man like this away, what hope was there for ordinary blokes like them
- Would their possessions also disqualify them from God's kingdom? Camel/needle = a scary illustration
- Did J even recognise the sacrifices they had made?

Are we also disturbed? All of us relatively rich in world/historical terms

Hope, Reassurance and Challenge

Hope

1. J loves earnest seekers and opens the door of the kingdom for them (v21)
2. All things are possible for God (v27)

Reassurance

1. Sacrifice is called for and valued
2. Followers of J will receive blessings many times over what they sacrifice (and more in the age to come)... as well as persecutions

Challenge

- How do WE react when God asks us to give up something?
- Possessions were this man's barrier to following J. What barriers do WE have?
- We don't enter the kingdom of God by doing something. We have to receive it like a child (v15).