

Obstacle to Discipleship

Mark 10:17-31

1. What Gives Us Significance? Vs. 17-27

A man came up to Jesus who desired to have eternal life with God. He was convinced that he has been faithfully obeying God in how one should act within the community but was not willing to leave everything and become a disciple of Jesus. His significance was not found in Jesus, but in his status and possessions that he had in the world.

Jesus is not calling this man to do anything extraordinary but is commanding him simply to do as He and His disciples are doing. He must face the cost of taking up his cross, giving himself and all his possessions completely to God.

- Timothy G. Gombis

2. What Rewards Are We Pursuing? Vs. 28-31

The Twelve disciples left everything for Jesus and the gospel. Jesus taught them that being part of the kingdom of God has far greater rewards than this world can provide; eternal rewards in the present age such as eternal life, and new relational ties accompanied with adversity and hardship until the age to come arrives.

Summary:

Disciples of Jesus choose to face the cost of surrendering their lives to Jesus.

- Choosing to place their trust in Jesus as they follow Him.
- Finding their significance and purpose in the good news of Jesus.
- Focusing on eternal rewards rather than temporary rewards.

Questions:

- What are some of the implications of the fact that only God is good?
- In what way can material wealth be a blessing from God? In what way can material wealth be an impediment to salvation?
- Peter was concerned about the sacrifices he had made to follow Jesus. What are some examples of sacrifices Christians today might be asked to give? How have you seen God bring fulfillment in your life?
- How does this text challenge you in your own Christian discipleship?