

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Psalm 90:12-17

*So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (v12)*

Hebrews 4:12-16

Mark 10:17-31

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty & ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind & reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments & receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Mark 10:17-31

<sup>17</sup>As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up & knelt before him, & asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>18</sup>Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father & mother.’” <sup>20</sup>He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” <sup>21</sup>Jesus, looking at him, loved him & said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, & give the money to the poor, & you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” <sup>22</sup>When he heard this, he was shocked & went away grieving, for he had many possessions. <sup>23</sup>Then Jesus looked around & said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” <sup>24</sup>And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” <sup>26</sup>They were greatly astounded & said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” <sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them & said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.” <sup>28</sup>Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything & followed you.” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake & for the sake of the good news, <sup>30</sup>who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers & sisters, mothers & children, & fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last, & the last will be first.”

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit:*

1. What do these other “treasure in heaven” passages add? *See Matthew 6:20, 13:44, 52; Luke 12:13-21, 32-34, 18:22; Acts 2:45, 5:1-11; 2 Corinthians 9:5-15; Philippians 3:7-8; Hebrews 10:34; 1 Peter 1:4-9*
2. How does this episode connect with 10:2-16? What themes, parallel ideas, inversions, reversals, similarities, extensions, metaphors, actions, vocabulary, grammar, etc. do they share? Don’t miss v24/v14 v26/10

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Sometimes our families stand in the way of our faithfulness (v20). When has your family come between you & Jesus? Now consider this harder question: when have you come between your loved ones & Jesus? Reflect on our culture’s notions that one should “do anything” for their family, but that one can “take that religion stuff too far.” *See also Small Catechism: 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment available < bookofconcord.org >*
4. In this story we observe (inherently) disordered love. The man loves his achievements & accomplishments (vv20, 22) more than he loves God, yet Jesus loves him all the same. How is this man’s plight a mirror to your own development as a fully devoted follower of Jesus? What do you need to sell for the sake of the poor & your own soul (v21)?

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. The Prayer of Day asks that “we may follow the way of [God’s] commandments.” What are you doing in your congregation to learn this? How are showing & telling this to others? How is your behavior (things done & left undone) accountable to your brothers & sisters?
6. Main-stream American Christianity is increasingly the domain of married, college-educated, six-figure households; in other words, not only the opposite of poor, but those most repulsed by & least understanding of poverty. How does your congregation show compassion & dignity to local poverty? Where could it start? How can you learn about poverty rather than blame the poor for not being as good as you?

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Love

*God gives his gifts out of love, to be used for his purpose of love.*

-Notes-

**KEY VERSE:** *Jesus, looking at him, loved him & said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, & give the money to the poor, & you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” (v21)*

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (*Matthew 5:3*)

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