

## THE GREAT EXCHANGE

Mark 10:28-31

- Paul was on the final leg of the third missionary journey.
- He was pressing forward (from Greece) in order to be in Jerusalem on Pentecost.
- He was traveling south by boat along the western coast of Asia Minor.
- Luke is accompanying Paul and gives us a detailed first hand report:

## PAUL'S LAST WORD

▶ Acts 20:15–16 – *Sailing from there, we arrived the following day opposite Chios; and the next day we crossed over to Samos; and the day following we came to Miletus. For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.*

- He bypassed Ephesus in order to conserve time.
- But in Miletus (about 20 miles south of Ephesus) he called for the Ephesian' elders.
- He wanted to remind them (and through them the Ephesian church) of key truths pertinent to what they would face in the future.

- 2 Acts 20:22–23 – *“And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me.”*
- God gave Paul a glimpse of the future.
  - This glimpse was not intended to redirect Paul's travels but bolster a realistic faith.

- 3 Acts 20:36–38 – *When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And they began to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him, grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they were accompanying him to the ship.*
- So Paul imparted a last word (a look back and look forward) to the Ephesian church.

- I am not comparing myself to Paul but I have wondered, “What would I say to this church of Memphis, if this were my last word.”
- So, I have landed on four key topics that I think capture what I yearn for you to grasp.
- Two of them (middle two) connect to our six challenges. Two (today and Sept. 24) are about how to make the most of the days.

- So this morning, I want to help you understand something I like to call “The Great Exchange.”
- It is discussed in numerous passages, but, interestingly, it is introduced by Jesus in the passage that immediately follows the one we considered last week.
- So let’s review Mark 10:17-27:

## A FAITHFUL WOUND

- We are introduced to a man who asks, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?”
- The answer Jesus gave to his question was not what he wanted to hear.
- Jesus outlined 4 specific action steps (cancer targeted) by which to inherit eternal life.

## A FAITHFUL WOUND

5 Specifically, Jesus said: *“One thing you lack, **go, sell your possessions, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow Me.**”*

- I didn’t note it last week, but there is an amazing prediction embedded here.

## A FAITHFUL WOUND

5 Specifically, Jesus said: *“One thing you lack, **go, sell your possessions, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow Me.**”*

- “You will have treasure in heaven” is based on a future tense linked to the 3 prior imperatives.

- It is not clear if “treasure in heaven” refers to some sort of currency exchange or if this is a euphemism for the richness of heaven.
- Regardless – By holding onto his stuff, the RYR has made a disastrous investment decision. No u-hauls follow hearses!
- Jesus told him there is one thing he lacks. (Shocker: He probably never lacked anything!)

- So when he walked away sad, he was not sad about an opportunity missed (he doesn't see it) but extreme (perceived) cost.
- The cost is too great because he doesn't see the gain.
- Core problem: He doesn't see who Jesus is. Those who see who Jesus is do what He says.

6

## GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

- Then we looked at a side-bar conversation as the RYR faded into the distance.
- Jesus explained that having stuff is a disadvantage for a “follow Me” decision.
- Self-rescue is impossible for anyone. Having no lack adds to the difficulty.

7

Vs. 27 – *Looking at them, Jesus \*said, “With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.”*

- Saving people, even those with stuff, is simply **not possible (ἀδύνατος) for men.**
- **But God is perfectly capable of saving all impossibles.**

- Here is what only God can do:
- **Rescue** us from extreme peril (saved).
- Provide an **inheritance of eternal life**
- Make it possible to receive **treasure in heaven** (vs. 21)
- **Grant us entrance to the kingdom of God** (23, 24, 25)

## 8 AGENTS OF IMPOSSIBLE RESCUE

- God does the impossible by saving those who come to him with nothing but faith in Him.
- 9 But God is also interested in working through people of mustard seed faith to be agents of impossible rescues.
- So we asked...

## GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLES

- Who is your lost cause? Who is your impossible-to-save? Who needs spiritual breakthrough and release from bondage?
- Ask Him to show you your part! Ask Him to work through your words and deeds. Do what He prompts. Then watch God work!

## 10 THE GREAT EXCHANGE

- Peter brings something to Jesus' attention.
- Then Jesus answers by declaring something astounding, something the RYR has just walked away from.

11 Vs. 28 – Peter began to say to Him, “Behold, we have left everything and followed You.”

- Peter sometimes gets a bad rap, but he is asking an “application question.” Bravo! “How does this apply to us?”
- Jesus does not rebuke him but answers, i.e., Good question, Peter!

11 Vs. 28 – Peter began to say to Him, “Behold, we have left everything and followed You.”

- “Behold” = see this!
- Left = aorist; follow = perfect
- “Left everything” (left our plan behind) and followed You (embraced your plan).  
**Your plan is now our plan. Vivid memory?**

12 Mark 1:16–20 – As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become **fishers of men.**”  
Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

- **Simon accepted a new calling, to become a man-fisher.**

12 Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.”

- **Watching the RYR walk away, it was natural for Peter to reflect back on the day when Jesus said, “Follow me.”**

13 Everyone who follows Christ ultimately makes the same sacrifice, for everyone must give all that they have, and Christ does not reckon the sacrifice as great or small by the amount given, but by the amount withheld for self – Cole, R.A.

- The twelve couldn't help but think of their own RYR moments and wanted to know if Jesus saw it. Peter voiced what was true for all. "Behold" is a call for Jesus to see this.

14 Vs 29 – Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake..."

- Peter and Andrew still had a house in Capernaum (1:29).
- Some still owned boats (John 21:3)
- Some were married (1 Cor. 9:5).
- This is not a call to monastic living.

14 • Vs 29 – Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake..."

- Houses, siblings, parents, children, livelihoods are all potential costs of following Jesus.
- You **must** choose allegiance to Jesus / commitment to the Gospel when it costs these things.

15 Luke 12:49–53 – "I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished! Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division; for from now on five members in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three.

15 “They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

- **When (?) we must make extreme cost (family rejection) decisions to follow Jesus, we choose Jesus.**

16 Matthew 10:37–39 – “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life **for My sake** will find it.

- **The twelve have done precisely this!**

17 vs 29 – Jesus said, “**Truly** I say to you, there is **no one** who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake...”

- Jesus considers this the “amen group” – “Truly” is amen.
- Those who can be described by verse 29 will realize what is described in verse 30. **No one** left out.

18 Vs. 30 – “but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.”

- Every single person who makes a Jesus-first-no-matter-the-cost decision will realize three “benefits.”
- Two are present, one is future.

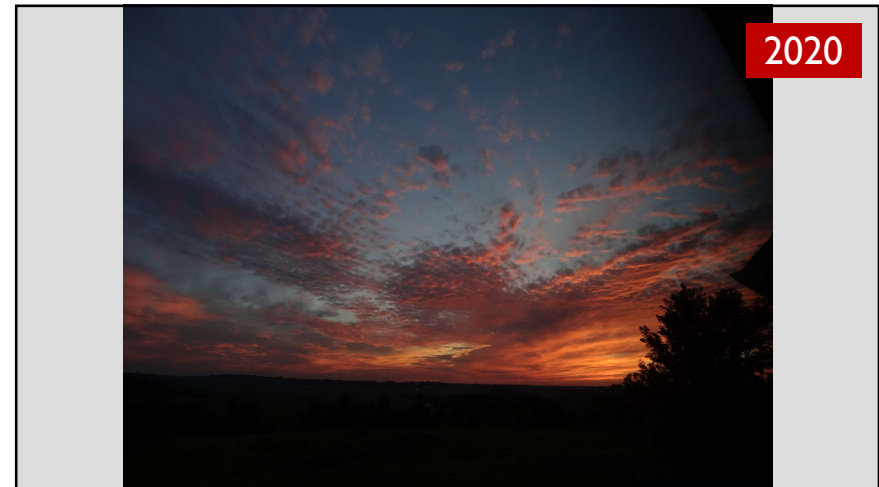
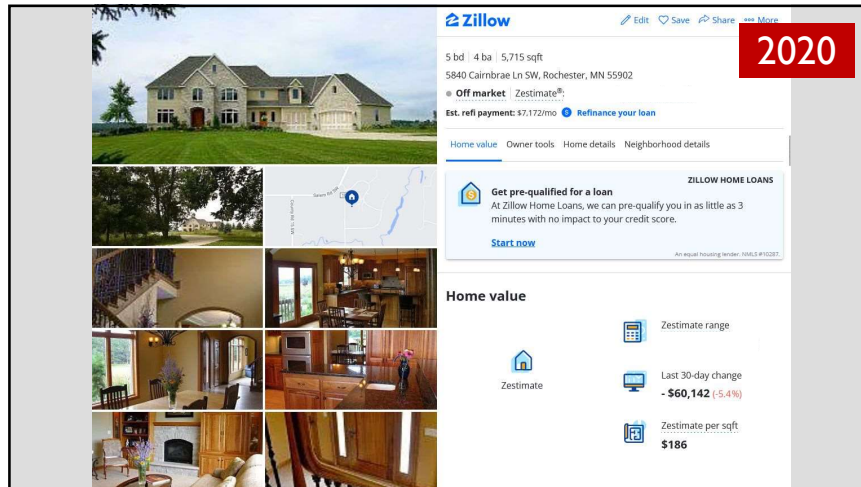


18 Vs. 30 – “but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.”

- When you go all-in for Jesus, despite the cost, you will enjoy a 100x familial blessing.
- You will also enjoy the benefit of multiple houses and livelihoods.
- How is this possible? David Naik, Isaac Naik, and Cairnbrae Lane

MAKE A DIFFERENCE





- With men, saving someone is impossible!
- But not for God.
- He wants to do the impossible through us.
- 19 Everyone who follows Jesus no-matter-what will enter into a vast spiritual family of brothers, sisters, mothers, and children. We are that family! Father is the same.
- What a shock for the Harvard guy!

- That's the good news.
- There is also some bad news for those who follow Jesus all-in. We will receive persecution (διωγμός) in this age.
- This can jeopardize our devotion to Jesus.
- But it can also serve a good purpose!
- Paul dealt with persecution and can explain.

20 2 Corinthians 12:8–10 – *Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is **perfected** in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, **with persecutions**, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

• Vs. 30 – “*but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.*”

- The third benefit is a future one.
- Eternal life! No more persecutions, but spiritual family forever!
- This = “treasure in heaven.”
- The RYR made a profoundly sad decision: He kept his stuff rather than follow Jesus. Treasure missed.

- So how do we go, sell, give, and follow?

21 Find ways to invest your time, your energy, your resources in endeavors that serve Jesus’ interests.

- Dr. Prihoda > ?
- No matter the cost, your sacrifice will be worth it!
- The goal is not to acquire but to invest.

22 Vs 30 –  
*“But many who are first will be last, and the last, first.”*

- The RYR was regarded as “top tier” by men, not by Jesus.
- Some who are “bottom of the ladder” are on His “wow” list.
- How much we possess matters little.
- For whom we use what we possess is what matters.

23 Luke 21:1–4 – *And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. And He saw a poor widow putting in two small copper coins. And He said, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them; for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on.”*

- She has next to nothing, but she is in a different class altogether compared to the RYR.

24 1 Timothy 6:17–19 – *Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.”*