

YES! WAY!

Mark 10:23-27

- What to preach? Crickets!
- **ἀδύνατος (10x's in NT)**
- Didn't I preach this passage once before?
- Yup! Almost exactly two years ago – first sermon as Interim Senior Pastor.
- So we will review Mark 10:17-22 (Aug 29, 2021) before we look at vss. 23-27 today

- Think of this sermon and the one from two years ago as bookends to our season together.
- You might not remember what I said 2 years ago about an encounter with the rich young ruler (vss. 17-22), so I will review.
- Then we will look at what happened next in vss. 22-27 where **ἀδύνατος** is used.

REVIEW FROM MARK 10:17-22

- ▶ Proverbs 27:6 – *Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.*
- Enemy = someone who desires your harm.
- Method: He will use affirmation (“kisses”) to lure you / to influence what you do.

REVIEW FROM MARK 10:17-22

- A true friend wants what is best for you.
- He may say or do something that hurts – that wounds.
- Lesson: Don't be fooled by an enemy's kisses. Trust the wounds of a friend!
- Jesus is the best of friends.

REVIEW FROM MARK 10:17-22

- 2 John 15:13–14 – *“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you.”*
- 3 Because Jesus is our perfect friend, His “faithful wounds” are absolutely trust worthy.

REVIEW FROM MARK 10:17-22

- When Jesus says something that is hard to hear or does something that is hard to take, He works to promote our good.
- These are faithful wounds. If you will trust Him, you can unlock powerful benefits from those wounds.

REVIEW FROM MARK 10:17-22

- Example: Here is an incident in which Jesus administers a faithful wound as a true friend.
- The recipient doesn't trust the wound.
- From this incident, we learned how we can trust Jesus when He imparts faithful wounds.

4 ▶ Mark 10:17–22 – *As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments, ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud,*

4 ▶ *Honor your father and mother.’ ” And he said to Him, “Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up.” Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, “One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.”*

5 ▶ WHO IS THIS MAN?

- Composite from || accounts: By all outward appearances, this inquirer is admirable: Young, wealthy, an influencer, upright, seeking Jesus, and humbling himself before Him.
- One more fact: *And looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him... (Mark 10:21).*

6 ▶ SHOCK! SPIRITUAL CANCER!

- Shocker: There is spiritual cancer inside this young man. He doesn't see it. But Jesus does.
- What did he expect to hear? Affirmation?
- His response: *But at these words, his face fell, and he went away grieved (Mark 10:22).*
- Grieving, not grateful.

6

SHOCK! SPIRITUAL CANCER!

- Did he come seeking Jesus' endorsement or approval?
- Clearly he did not want Jesus' direction.
- He did not trust the faithful wounds of his friend, Jesus. He walked away wounded but untrusting!

6

SHOCK! SPIRITUAL CANCER!

- Jesus saw what this man did not see in himself.
- His self-assessment was "I am good on the manward half of the 10."
- This is about loving neighbor as self.
- He thinks he is good, he is not.

7

DIAGNOSTIC TOOL

- So Jesus prescribed a diagnostic tool that would demonstrate conclusively that this man's self-assessment was totally off.
- Interesting, this diagnostic tool shines a light on two core heart conditions: God alone and love neighbor as self.

7

DIAGNOSTIC TOOL

- This exercise is defined by 4 commands: "*If you wish to be complete, **go, sell your possessions, and give** to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and **come follow Me.***"
- Response to commands 1, 2, & 3 reveals the true state of your love for your neighbor.

7

DIAGNOSTIC TOOL

- Your response to command 4 will reveal the core problem: Love for stuff over love for God.
- By completing exercises 1-3, this man would clearly demonstrate that he truly does love his neighbor as himself.

7

DIAGNOSTIC TOOL

- By completing exercise 4, he would clearly demonstrate who or what is his god.
- This was not what the man wanted to hear!
- Jesus was being his true friend but telling him what was hard to hear. These were faithful wounds.

7

DIAGNOSTIC TOOL

- He did not trust the wounds of his new friend, Jesus.
- He forfeited treasure in heaven and the opportunity to join Jesus' followers.
- I do not know if he ever had a change of heart – but how sad. How sad for Jesus!

8

A CRITICAL QUESTION

- Is your heart saying, “Yes, Lord! Tell me whatever I need to hear! I will trust You even when it hurts.”
- Then I gave you four exercises to strengthen your ability to “wound trust” the Lord.
- Okay, now we’re ready for part 2.

9 Vs. 22 – *But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.*

- He was wounded – sad and grieving
- But He didn't trust his friend.
- The cost was "too high."
- He didn't realize the cost was comparatively low! (come next week)

10 Vs. 23 – *And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, "How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!"*

- As the young man fades into the distance, Jesus addresses His followers.
- He declares – wealth is an entrance hindrance!
- Literally: "How hard it is for those who have things!" You have things?

11 Vs. 24 – *The disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!"*

- For the disciples, this is shockingly, completely counterintuitive.
- Riches are a sign of God's favorites – So how can this be a disadvantage?
- Just to be clear, Jesus says it again, more broadly.

12 Vs. 25 – *"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."*

- Just how hard? Jesus explains.
- Largest animal / smallest opening, i.e., impossible!
- Enter kingdom (cf. Daniel) = be saved = follow Jesus.
- All who have things are lost causes!

13 Vs. 26 – *They were even more astonished and said to Him, “Then who can be saved?”*

- They are flipping out!
- If those who have stuff are **lost causes**, and those who have stuff have the best shot at entering the kingdom (so we assume), then how can **anyone** be saved?

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

- Jesus makes eye contact.
- Jesus says (*historical present) = very vivid.
- Saving people with stuff is simply **not possible (ἀδύνατος) for men.**

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

- Whatever we consider an asset that we might bring to the table for kingdom entrance is actually a liability / a hindrance.
- Jesus was helping this RYR by encouraging him to ditch his stuff.

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

- Bad news: We are all lost causes.
- Good news: But not to God.
- On our own we are **ἀδύνατος** / but not with God. All things are **δύνατος** with Him!

15

GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

- We are saved by believing this! It is **not possible** for me to save myself, no matter what I bring to the table.
- But God is God of the impossible and I believe He can save me even though I bring nothing.
- Is this what Jesus saw as He looked at them.

15

GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

- Now let me show you what captured my attention a few weeks ago.
- Remember: We are lost causes saved by a God who does the impossible.
- Breath-taking: He wants to work through us to do the impossible.

16

Matthew 17:19–20 – *Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not drive it out?” And He said to them, “Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and **nothing will be impossible (future of ἀδυνατέω)** to you.”*

17

GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLES

- God does the impossible by saving those who come to him with nothing but faith in a God who can save the impossible.
- But God is also interested in working through people of mustard seed faith to do the impossible!

GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLES

- Even as we watched The Jesus Revolution, I long for our God who does the impossible to do it once again.
- I long for him to work through us to do the impossible.
- This is His longing too!

18 2 Chronicles 16:9 – *“For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.”*

19 Ephesians 3:20–21 – *Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.*

GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLES

- So who is your lost cause? Who is your impossible to save?
- Trust Him! (The rich young ruler did not!) Ask Him to show you your part! Ask Him to work through your words and deeds to do the impossible. Do what He prompts. Then watch!