CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Mark Chapter 10 — Teaching on Marriage, Wealth, Humility, and Faith

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Mark Chapter 10 takes place on the road to Jerusalem.

Jesus has left Galilee for the last time.

He is heading toward the cross.

Along the way, He teaches about some of the most important areas of life.

Marriage.

Children.

Money.

Greatness.

The Pharisees test Him with a question about divorce.

Jesus points them back to God's design at creation.

Parents bring their children, and Jesus welcomes them in His arms.

A rich man asks how to inherit eternal life, but walks away sad because he loves his wealth.

Jesus predicts His death for the third time, in more detail than ever.

James and John ask for the best seats in His glory.

Jesus teaches that true greatness comes through serving.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Finally, at Jericho, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus cries out for mercy.

Jesus heals him, and he follows Jesus on the road.

The chapter moves through six movements:

- Teaching on Divorce and Marriage (verses 1–12).
- Jesus Blesses the Children (verses 13–16).
- The Rich Young Ruler (verses 17–31).
- Jesus Predicts His Death a Third Time (verses 32–34).
- The Request of James and John (verses 35–45).
- Blind Bartimaeus Receives Sight (verses 46–52).

The central truth of Mark 10 is:

Jesus calls His followers to honor God's design for marriage, receive the kingdom like children, value Him above all wealth, and find true greatness in serving, because He came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many.

I. ON THE ROAD TO JUDEA

Mark 10:1 — Teaching the Crowds

"Jesus left that place and went into the region of Judea and across the Jordan. Crowds gathered around Him again, and as was His custom, He taught them."

"Jesus left that place."

He left Galilee.

"And went into the region of Judea and across the Jordan."

He was moving south, toward Jerusalem.

"Crowds gathered around Him again."

Wherever He went, people came.

"And as was His custom, He taught them."

Teaching was Jesus' regular habit.

Even on the road to the cross, He kept teaching.

Cross References

Matthew 19:1

> When Jesus finished saying these things, He left Galilee and went into the area of Judea on the other side of the Jordan River.

John 10:40

> Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had first baptized, and He stayed there.

Matthew 4:23

> Jesus went all over Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and preaching the good news.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus faithfully taught God's truth even on the road to suffering.

Key Truth

Jesus' faithfulness did not change with His circumstances.

II. A TEST ABOUT DIVORCE

Mark 10:2 — Is It Lawful?

“Some Pharisees came to test Him, asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?””

“Some Pharisees came to test Him.”

This was a trap.

They were in the territory of Herod, who had divorced his wife to marry Herodias.

John the Baptist was killed for speaking against this.

“Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”

Religious teachers of that day disagreed about divorce.

Some allowed it only for serious sexual sin.

Others allowed it for almost any reason.

Whatever Jesus said, someone would be offended.

Cross References

Matthew 19:3

> Some Pharisees came to Jesus and tried to trap Him. They asked, “Is it right for a man to divorce his wife for any reason?”

Matthew 5:31

> It has been said, “Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.”

Deuteronomy 24:1

> If a man marries a woman and later finds something shameful about her, he may write her a certificate of divorce, give it to her, and send her away from his house.

Spiritual Principle

Questions meant to trap are best answered with God's word.

Key Truth

Jesus did not avoid hard questions.

III. WHAT DID MOSES COMMAND?

Mark 10:3 — Back to Scripture

“He replied, “What did Moses command you?””

Jesus answered with a question.

He pointed them to God's word.

He wanted them to think about what Scripture actually said.

Cross References

Matthew 19:7

> They asked Him, “Then why did Moses command us to give a certificate of divorce?”

Deuteronomy 24:1

> If a man finds something wrong in his wife, he may give her divorce papers.

John 8:5

> In the law, Moses told us to stone such women. What do You say?

Spiritual Principle

Every question about how to live must be brought back to God's word.

Key Truth

Jesus always went back to the Scriptures.

IV. A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE

Mark 10:4 — What Moses Permitted

“They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.””

The Pharisees answered with Deuteronomy 24.

Notice the word **permitted**.

Moses did not command divorce.

He allowed it and regulated it.

The certificate protected the wife.

It gave her legal proof she was free to remarry.

Without it, she could be left in a terrible situation.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 24:1

> He may write her a certificate of divorce and send her away.

Matthew 19:7

> Why then did Moses say a man could give his wife divorce papers and send her away?

Jeremiah 3:8

> I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her unfaithfulness.

Spiritual Principle

God's law sometimes regulated what was not His ideal in order to protect the vulnerable.

Key Truth

Permission is not the same as God's best plan.

V. HARD HEARTS

Mark 10:5 — Why Moses Allowed It

“Jesus answered, “It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote this commandment.”

“It was because your hearts were hard.”

The rule about divorce was given because of human sin.

People's hearts were stubborn and unloving.

Divorce was a concession to a broken world.

It was never God's original design.

Cross References

Matthew 19:8

> Jesus said, “Moses allowed you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.”

Deuteronomy 10:16

> So change your hearts, and stop being stubborn.

Hebrews 3:8

> Do not make your hearts hard as you did when you turned against God in the desert.

Spiritual Principle

Divorce exists because of human sin, not because it is God's plan.

Key Truth

God's rules for a broken world point back to His perfect plan.

VI. MALE AND FEMALE

Mark 10:6 — From the Beginning

“But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’”

“But from the beginning of creation.”

Jesus went back further than Moses.

He went to creation itself.

“God made them male and female.”

Jesus quoted Genesis 1.

God created humanity as male and female.

Marriage is part of God's design from the very beginning.

Cross References

Genesis 1:27

> God made people to be like Himself. He created them as men and women.

Matthew 19:4

> Jesus answered, “Have you not read that in the beginning the Creator made them male and female?”

Genesis 5:2

> He created them male and female and blessed them. He called them “human beings” when they were created.

Spiritual Principle

God's design for marriage goes back to creation.

Key Truth

To understand marriage, go back to the beginning.

VII. LEAVE AND BE JOINED

Mark 10:7 — A New Family

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,”

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother.”

Marriage creates a new family.

The man leaves his parents' household.

“And be joined to his wife.”

The word means to stick or cling.

It describes a strong, lasting bond.

Cross References

Genesis 2:24

> That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife, and the two become one body.

Matthew 19:5

> For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife.

Ephesians 5:31

> As the Scriptures say, “A man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one.”

Spiritual Principle

Marriage forms a new and lasting bond that takes priority over other family ties.

Application

If you are married, are you putting your spouse first?

VIII. ONE FLESH

Mark 10:8 — No Longer Two

“and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh.”

“And the two shall become one flesh.”

Husband and wife are united completely.

Body, heart, and life.

“So they are no longer two, but one flesh.”

They are not two separate people living side by side.

They are one unit before God.

Cross References

Genesis 2:24

> The man is joined to his wife, and they become one.

Matthew 19:5

> The two will become one body.

1 Corinthians 6:16

> Don't you know that anyone who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? The Scriptures say, “The two will become one body.”

Spiritual Principle

Marriage makes two people one in God's sight.

Key Truth

In marriage, “we” replaces “me.”

IX. WHAT GOD HAS JOINED

Mark 10:9 — Let No One Separate

“Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.””

“What God has joined together.”

God Himself is the One who unites husband and wife.

Marriage is not only a human agreement.

It is God's work.

“Let no one separate.”

No person should tear apart what God has joined.

God's design is for marriage to last for life.

Cross References

Matthew 19:6

> So they are no longer two, but one. What God has joined together, no one should separate.

Malachi 2:16

> The Lord God of Israel says, “I hate divorce. I hate it when people do cruel things as easily as they put on clothes.”

1 Corinthians 7:10

> To married people I give this command, not from me but from the Lord: a wife should not leave her husband.

Spiritual Principle

God intends marriage to be a lifelong union.

Key Truth

Marriage is God's work, and He means it to last.

X. IN THE HOUSE

Mark 10:10 — The Disciples Ask

“Later, when they were in the house again, the disciples asked Him about this.”

The disciples were surprised by Jesus' teaching.

It was stricter than what many rabbis taught.

So they asked Him privately.

Matthew tells us they even said it might be better not to marry.

Cross References

Matthew 19:10

> His followers said, “If that is how it is between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry.”

Mark 4:34

> When He was alone with His followers, He explained everything.

Matthew 13:36

> Then Jesus went into the house, and His followers came to Him.

Spiritual Principle

Bring your questions about hard teachings to Jesus.

Key Truth

Hard teachings are best understood in quiet time with Jesus.

XI. COMMITTING ADULTERY AGAINST HER

Mark 10:11 — The Husband

“He said, “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her.”

“Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman.”

Many men in that day divorced their wives for small reasons.

“Commits adultery against her.”

This was a shocking statement.

Many thought adultery was only a sin against another man.

Jesus said the husband sins **against his wife**.

This raised the dignity and value of women.

Matthew records an exception for sexual unfaithfulness.

Paul also speaks about believers deserted by an unbelieving spouse.

Christians and churches hold different views on how these teachings apply today.

Cross References

Matthew 19:9

> I tell you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.

Luke 16:18

> Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman is guilty of adultery.

Matthew 5:32

> I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual sin, makes her guilty of adultery.

Spiritual Principle

Marriage vows are sacred, and breaking them wrongs a real person.

Key Truth

Jesus defended the dignity of women in a world that often did not.

XII. THE WIFE AS WELL

Mark 10:12 — Equal Responsibility

“And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.””

In Jewish law, usually only men could divorce.

But in the Roman world, women could too.

Mark's readers lived in that world.

Jesus applied the same standard to both.

Husband and wife have equal responsibility before God.

A word of care:

Jesus' teaching upholds God's design for lifelong marriage.

It does not require anyone to stay in danger.

Anyone facing abuse should seek safety and help from trusted people, their church, and the proper authorities.

And those who have been through divorce are welcome in God's family and can find grace and healing in Christ.

Cross References

Luke 16:18

> A man who marries a divorced woman is also guilty of adultery.

1 Corinthians 7:11

> But if she does leave, she must stay unmarried or else make peace with her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

Romans 7:3

> If she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress.

Spiritual Principle

God holds husbands and wives to the same standard of faithfulness.

Key Truth

God's high standard for marriage is joined with His grace for the broken.

XIII. BRINGING THE CHILDREN

Mark 10:13 — The Disciples Rebuked Them

“People were bringing children to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them.”

“People were bringing children to Jesus.”

Parents wanted Jesus to bless their children.

“For Him to place His hands on them.”

Laying hands on someone was a way of blessing them.

“But the disciples rebuked them.”

The disciples thought Jesus was too busy.

Children seemed unimportant.

They had already forgotten the lesson of Chapter 9.

Cross References

Matthew 19:13

> Then people brought their little children to Jesus so He could put His hands on them and pray. But His followers told them to stop.

Luke 18:15

> People were even bringing babies to Jesus so He could touch them. When the followers saw this, they told them to stop.

Genesis 48:9

> Joseph said to his father, “These are the sons God gave me here.” Israel said, “Bring them to me so I can bless them.”

Spiritual Principle

No one is too small or unimportant for Jesus.

Spiritual Warning

Be careful not to keep anyone from coming to Jesus.

XIV. LET THE CHILDREN COME

Mark 10:14 — Jesus Was Indignant

“When Jesus saw this, He was indignant. He said, “Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

“When Jesus saw this, He was indignant.”

Only Mark tells us Jesus was angry.

He was upset with His disciples.

“Let the children come to Me.”

Jesus welcomed them.

“Do not hinder them.”

Do not stand in their way.

“For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

Children have nothing to offer.

They simply receive.

That is how everyone must come to God.

Cross References

Matthew 19:14

> Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me. Do not stop them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people like them.”

Luke 18:16

> But Jesus called for the children, saying, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not stop them.”

Matthew 18:3

> I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus welcomes children and those with childlike hearts.

Application

How can you help children come to Jesus?

XV. LIKE A LITTLE CHILD

Mark 10:15 — Receiving the Kingdom

“Truly I tell you, anyone who does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.””

“Anyone who does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child.”

How does a child receive?

With trust.

With humility.

With empty hands.

A child does not earn a gift.

A child simply receives it.

“Will never enter it.”

There is no other way.

We cannot earn God's kingdom.

We must receive it as a gift.

Cross References

Matthew 18:3

> Unless you turn and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Luke 18:17

> Anyone who will not receive God's kingdom like a child will never enter it.

Matthew 19:14

> The kingdom of heaven belongs to people who are like these children.

Spiritual Principle

The kingdom of God is received as a gift, not earned as a reward.

Key Truth

We come to God with empty hands, like a child.

XVI. HE BLESSED THEM

Mark 10:16 — In His Arms

“And He took the children in His arms, placed His hands on them, and blessed them.”

“He took the children in His arms.”

Jesus hugged them.

“Placed His hands on them.”

He gave them what their parents had asked.

“And blessed them.”

The word suggests a warm, generous blessing.

The disciples tried to send them away.

Jesus gathered them close.

Cross References

Matthew 19:15

> He put His hands on them and then left.

Genesis 48:14

> Israel reached out his right hand and put it on Ephraim's head, and he put his left hand on Manasseh's head to bless them.

Psalm 127:3

> Children are a gift from the Lord. They are a reward from Him.

Spiritual Principle

Children are precious to Jesus and should be precious to His people.

Key Truth

The arms of Jesus are always open to children.

XVII. A MAN RAN UP

Mark 10:17 — What Must I Do?

“As Jesus started on His way, a man ran up, knelt before Him, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?””

“A man ran up.”

He was eager.

Matthew tells us he was young.

Luke tells us he was a ruler.

“Knelt before Him.”

He showed respect and humility.

“Good Teacher.”

He honored Jesus.

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

The most important question anyone can ask.

But notice the word **“do.”**

He thought eternal life was something he could earn.

Cross References

Matthew 19:16

> A man came to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to have eternal life?”

Luke 18:18

> A certain leader asked Jesus, “Good Teacher, what must I do to receive life forever?”

Luke 10:25

> An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. He asked, “Teacher, what must I do to receive eternal life?”

Spiritual Principle

Eternal life is the most important question of all.

Key Truth

Right after Jesus taught about receiving like a child, a man asked what he could do.

XVIII. NO ONE IS GOOD BUT GOD

Mark 10:18 — Why Call Me Good?

“Jesus answered, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.”

“Why do you call Me good?”

Jesus was not denying that He is good.

He was making the man think.

“No one is good except God alone.”

If the man called Jesus good, did he understand that Jesus is God?

And did he understand that no human is good enough to earn eternal life?

Jesus was challenging his view of goodness.

Cross References

Matthew 19:17

> Jesus answered, “Why do you ask Me about what is good? Only God is good.”

Luke 18:19

> Jesus said, “Why do you call Me good? Only God is good.”

Psalm 25:8

> The Lord is good and right. He shows sinners the right way to live.

Spiritual Principle

True goodness belongs to God alone.

Key Truth

The man called Jesus good without realizing He was God.

XIX. YOU KNOW THE COMMANDMENTS

Mark 10:19 — The Second Half of the Law

“You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.’””

Jesus listed commandments about how we treat others.

- Do not murder.
- Do not commit adultery.
- Do not steal.
- Do not lie.
- Do not cheat.

- Honor your parents.

Notice Jesus did not list the commands about loving God.

He would soon test that part of the man's heart.

Cross References

Exodus 20:12

> Honor your father and your mother, so you will live a long time in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

Deuteronomy 5:16

> Honor your father and mother, as the Lord your God commanded you.

Matthew 19:18

> Jesus answered, “Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not lie.”

Spiritual Principle

God's law shows us how far we fall short.

Key Truth

The law is a mirror, not a ladder.

XX. ALL THESE I HAVE KEPT

Mark 10:20 — Since I Was Young

“The man replied, “Teacher, all these I have kept since I was young.””

The man was sincere.

He had lived a moral life.

He had not murdered, stolen, or committed adultery.

By outward standards, he was a good man.

But he still sensed something was missing.

Matthew tells us he asked, **“What do I still lack?”**

Cross References

Matthew 19:20

The young man said, “I have obeyed all these things. What else do I need to do?”

Luke 18:21

The man said, “I have obeyed all these commands since I was a boy.”

Philippians 3:6

As for keeping the law, I was without fault.

Spiritual Principle

Outward goodness cannot fill the emptiness only God can fill.

Key Truth

A person can be very moral and still lack the one thing that matters most.

XXI. JESUS LOOKED AT HIM WITH LOVE

Mark 10:21 — One Thing You Lack

“Jesus looked at him with love and said, “One thing you lack: go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me.””

“Jesus looked at him with love.”

Only Mark records this.

Jesus loved this man.

What He was about to say came from love.

“One thing you lack.”

Jesus saw the one thing holding him back.

“Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor.”

His wealth was his god.

It ruled his heart.

This command was for this man, because his riches stood between him and God.

Jesus does not ask every believer to sell everything.

But He does ask every believer to put Him above everything.

“And you will have treasure in heaven.”

He would not lose; he would gain.

“Then come, follow Me.”

The real point was following Jesus.

Cross References

Matthew 19:21

> Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor. You will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow Me.”

Luke 18:22

> When Jesus heard this, He said, “There is still one thing you need to do. Sell everything you own and give the money to the poor.”

Matthew 6:20

> Put your treasure away in heaven. There, bugs and rust cannot ruin it, and no robber can break in and take it.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus lovingly asks us to give up whatever stands between us and Him.

Application

What is the “one thing” that might be holding you back from following Jesus fully?

XXII. HE WENT AWAY SAD

Mark 10:22 — Great Wealth

“At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.”

“At this the man's face fell.”

His expression changed.

He was disappointed.

“He went away sad.”

He walked away from Jesus.

He walked away from eternal life.

“Because he had great wealth.”

He did not own his wealth.

His wealth owned him.

This is the only person in Mark who was personally invited to follow Jesus and refused.

Cross References

Matthew 19:22

> When the young man heard this, he left sadly, because he was very rich.

Luke 18:23

> When the man heard this, he became very sad, because he was very rich.

Matthew 6:24

> Nobody can work for two bosses at once. He will end up loving one and hating the other. You cannot give yourself to God and to money both.

Spiritual Principle

Wealth that rules the heart can keep a person from Jesus.

Spiritual Warning

It is possible to come running to Jesus and walk away sad.

XXIII. HOW HARD FOR THE RICH

Mark 10:23 — Jesus Looked Around

“Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!””

“Jesus looked around.”

He watched the man go.

Then He turned to His disciples.

“How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

Wealth brings comfort.

Comfort can make people feel they do not need God.

Riches can create a false sense of security.

Cross References

Matthew 19:23

> Then Jesus said to His followers, “I tell you the truth, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Luke 18:24

> Jesus looked at him and said, “It is very hard for rich people to enter the kingdom of God.”

Proverbs 11:28

> Those who trust in their riches will fall, but good people will grow like green leaves.

Spiritual Principle

Riches can make it hard to depend on God.

Key Truth

The danger is not having money, but trusting in it.

XXIV. THOSE WHO TRUST IN RICHES

Mark 10:24 — Children, How Hard

“The disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!”

“The disciples were amazed at His words.”

In their culture, wealth was often seen as a sign of God's blessing.

If the rich could not be saved easily, who could?

“Children.”

Jesus spoke tenderly.

“How hard it is for those who trust in riches.”

Some ancient copies say simply, **“How hard it is to enter the kingdom of God.”**

Either way, the point is that anything we trust in instead of God keeps us out.

Cross References

1 Timothy 6:17

> Tell people who have money in this world not to be stuck-up or to count on riches that can disappear. They should count on God, who generously gives us all we need to enjoy.

Proverbs 11:28

> Whoever trusts in wealth will fall.

Psalm 62:10

> Do not trust in taking things by force. Do not hope in stealing. If riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

Spiritual Principle

Whatever we trust in instead of God keeps us from His kingdom.

Application

What are you trusting in for security?

XXV. A CAMEL THROUGH A NEEDLE

Mark 10:25 — Impossible for Man

“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.””

This is a vivid picture.

The camel was the largest animal in Israel.

The eye of a needle was the smallest opening.

It was humanly impossible.

Some later writers suggested a small gate called the “Needle's Eye,” but there is no good evidence for it.

Jesus meant something impossible.

No one can save themselves, rich or poor.

Cross References

Matthew 19:24

> A camel could squeeze through the hole in a sewing needle more easily than a rich person could get into God's kingdom.

Luke 18:25

> A camel can go through a needle's eye more easily than a rich person can enter God's kingdom.

Jeremiah 9:23

> The Lord says, “The rich must not brag about their riches.”

Spiritual Principle

Salvation is humanly impossible for anyone.

Key Truth

The camel cannot squeeze through by trying harder.

XXVI. WHO THEN CAN BE SAVED?

Mark 10:26 — Even More Amazed

“The disciples were even more amazed and said, “Who then can be saved?””

The disciples were shocked.

If the rich could not be saved, who could?

This is exactly the right question.

It leads to the right answer.

Cross References

Matthew 19:25

> When the followers heard this, they were very surprised and asked, “Then who can be saved?”

Luke 18:26

> When the people heard this, they asked, “Then who can be saved?”

Acts 16:30

> Then he brought them out and asked, “Men, what must I do to be saved?”

Spiritual Principle

Realizing we cannot save ourselves is the first step toward salvation.

Key Truth

The right question is “Who can be saved?” and the answer is God.

XXVII. WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

Mark 10:27 — Jesus Looked at Them

“Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God. With God all things are possible.””

“Jesus looked at them.”

He looked with love.

“With man this is impossible.”

No one can earn salvation.

“But not with God.”

God can do what we cannot.

“With God all things are possible.”

Salvation is God's work.

He can change even a heart that loves money.

He saves by grace.

Cross References

Genesis 18:14

> Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will come back to you next year at this time, and Sarah will have a son.

Luke 1:37

> There is nothing God cannot do.

Matthew 19:26

> Jesus looked at them and said, “This is impossible for people, but for God everything is possible.”

Spiritual Principle

Salvation is impossible for us but possible with God.

Key Truth

God does what no one can do for themselves.

XXVIII. WE HAVE LEFT EVERYTHING

Mark 10:28 — Peter Speaks Up

“Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow You!””

Peter compared himself with the rich man.

The rich man would not leave his wealth.

But the disciples had left everything.

Their boats.

Their nets.

Their homes.

Peter wanted to know what it would mean for them.

Cross References

Matthew 19:27

> Peter said to Jesus, “Look, we left everything we had and followed You. What will we have?”

Luke 18:28

> Peter said, “Look, we have left everything we had and followed You.”

Luke 5:11

> They brought their boats to the shore, left everything, and followed Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

Following Jesus means leaving behind whatever He asks.

Key Truth

The disciples did what the rich man would not.

XXIX. FOR ME AND THE GOSPEL

Mark 10:29 — No One Who Has Left

“Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for Me and the gospel”

“No one who has left.”

Jesus speaks of real sacrifice.

“House or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields.”

Home, family, and income.

Some believers have lost all of these because they follow Jesus.

“For Me and the gospel.”

The motive matters.

Not for reward, but for Jesus and His message.

Cross References

Matthew 19:29

> Everyone who has left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children, or fields for Me will get much more.

Luke 18:29

> Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, everyone who has left home, wife, brothers, parents, or children for God's kingdom will receive much more.”

Luke 14:26

> Anyone who wants to follow Me must love Me far more than father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, and even his own life. Otherwise, he cannot be My disciple.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is worthy of every sacrifice.

Key Truth

Nothing given up for Jesus is ever truly lost.

XXX. A HUNDREDFOLD

Mark 10:30 — Now and in the Age to Come

“will fail to receive a hundredfold in this present age—homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.”

“Will fail to receive a hundredfold in this present age.”

God gives far more than we give up.

“Homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields.”

In the family of God, believers gain many brothers, sisters, and mothers.

Homes opened to them.

A worldwide family.

“Along with persecutions.”

Only Mark includes this.

Following Jesus brings blessing and suffering together.

“And in the age to come eternal life.”

The greatest gift of all.

This is not a promise of earthly riches.

It is a promise of a new family now and eternal life to come.

Cross References

Matthew 19:29

> They will receive a hundred times more and will have life forever.

Luke 18:30

> They will receive much more in this life, and in the age to come they will have life forever.

Luke 6:38

> Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full, and even more.

Spiritual Principle

God gives back far more than we give up, including a new family and eternal life.

Key Truth

Persecution and blessing travel together for the disciple.

XXXI. FIRST AND LAST

Mark 10:31 — The Great Reversal

“But many who are first will be last, and the last first.””

This sums up the whole section.

The rich man seemed first.

The disciples seemed last.

In God's kingdom, everything is turned upside down.

Those who seem important now may be least in God's eyes.

Those who give up everything for Jesus will be honored.

Cross References

Matthew 19:30

Many who are first now will be last, and many who are last now will be first.

Matthew 20:16

So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

Luke 13:30

Some who are last will be first, and some who are first will be last.

Spiritual Principle

God's kingdom reverses the world's values.

Key Truth

In God's eyes, the way up is down.

XXXII. ON THE WAY TO JERUSALEM

Mark 10:32 — Jesus Leading the Way

“They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way. The disciples were amazed, while those who followed were afraid. Again He took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen.”

“They were on their way up to Jerusalem.”

Jerusalem was on a hill, so people always went “up” to it.

“With Jesus leading the way.”

Jesus walked ahead.

He was not dragged to the cross.

He led the way there.

“The disciples were amazed, while those who followed were afraid.”

They sensed something serious was coming.

“Again He took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen.”

Jesus prepared them once more.

Cross References

Matthew 20:17

> While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve followers aside privately.

Luke 18:31

> Jesus took the Twelve aside and said, “We are going to Jerusalem. Everything the prophets wrote about the Son of Man will happen.”

Luke 9:51

> When the time was coming near for Jesus to be taken up to heaven, He was determined to go to Jerusalem.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus willingly led the way to the cross.

Key Truth

Jesus did not run from the cross; He walked toward it.

XXXIII. DELIVERED AND CONDEMNED

Mark 10:33 — The Third Prediction

““We are going up to Jerusalem,” He said, “and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes. They will condemn Him to death and hand Him over to the Gentiles,”

This is the third and most detailed prediction.

“The Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes.”

He would be betrayed to the religious leaders.

“They will condemn Him to death.”

They would sentence Him.

“And hand Him over to the Gentiles.”

The Romans would carry out the sentence.

Jesus knew exactly what was coming.

Cross References

Matthew 20:18

> We are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the leading priests and teachers of the law, and they will sentence Him to death.

Luke 18:32

> He will be handed over to the Gentiles.

Isaiah 53:3

> He was looked down on and rejected by people. He knew pain and suffering.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus knew every detail of His suffering and still went forward.

Key Truth

Jesus' death was not a surprise to Him.

XXXIV. MOCKED, SPAT ON, FLOGGED, KILLED

Mark 10:34 — After Three Days He Will Rise

“who will mock Him, spit on Him, flog Him, and kill Him. After three days He will rise.””

Jesus described what would happen.

- **Mock Him.**
- **Spit on Him.**
- **Flog Him.**
- **Kill Him.**

Every one of these came true.

“After three days He will rise.”

But again, Jesus ended with victory.

Death would not hold Him.

Cross References

Matthew 20:19

> They will hand Him over to the Gentiles to be mocked, beaten, and crucified. But on the third day He will be raised to life.

Luke 18:33

> They will beat Him and kill Him, but on the third day He will rise again.

Isaiah 50:6

> I let them beat my back. I let them pull out my beard. I did not hide my face from their insults and spitting.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus endured terrible suffering so that we might be saved.

Key Truth

Every prediction of suffering ended with a promise of resurrection.

XXXV. WHATEVER WE ASK

Mark 10:35 — James and John's Request

“Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want You to do for us whatever we ask.””

Right after Jesus spoke of His suffering, James and John made a request.

Matthew tells us their mother came with them.

“We want You to do for us whatever we ask.”

They wanted a blank check.

They were thinking about themselves.

They had not understood what Jesus just said.

Cross References

Matthew 20:20

> Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons. She knelt down and asked Him for something.

Matthew 20:21

> Jesus asked, “What do you want?” She said, “Promise that one of my sons will sit at Your right and the other at Your left in Your kingdom.”

Mark 9:35

> Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.

Spiritual Principle

Selfish ambition blinds us to the way of the cross.

Spiritual Warning

It is possible to walk beside Jesus and still be thinking only of yourself.

XXXVI. WHAT DO YOU WANT?

Mark 10:36 — Jesus Asks

“He asked, “What do you want Me to do for you?””

Jesus did not refuse to listen.

He asked them to say it.

Jesus will ask this same question to Bartimaeus later in this chapter.

Two very different answers.

Cross References

Matthew 20:21

> Jesus asked her, “What do you want?”

Mark 10:51

> Jesus asked him, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

Matthew 20:32

> Jesus stopped and called them. “What do you want Me to do for you?” He asked.

Spiritual Principle

Our requests reveal what we truly value.

Application

If Jesus asked you, “What do you want Me to do for you?” what would you say?

XXXVII. YOUR RIGHT AND YOUR LEFT

Mark 10:37 — In Your Glory

“They replied, “Let one of us sit at Your right and the other at Your left in Your glory.””

They wanted the highest places of honor.

The right and left of a king were seats of power.

They believed Jesus would reign.

That was right.

But they did not understand the path to that glory.

Ironically, the ones at Jesus' right and left at the cross would be two criminals.

Cross References

Matthew 20:21

> Let one of my sons sit at Your right and the other at Your left in Your kingdom.

Matthew 19:28

> When the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones.

Revelation 3:21

> I will let everyone who wins the victory sit with Me on My throne, just as I won and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Spiritual Principle

The way to glory in God's kingdom is not through grasping for position.

Key Truth

The places at Jesus' right and left on the cross were filled by criminals.

XXXVIII. THE CUP AND THE BAPTISM

Mark 10:38 — You Do Not Know What You Are Asking

“Jesus said, “You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?””

“You do not know what you are asking.”

They did not understand.

“Can you drink the cup I drink?”

In the Old Testament, a **cup** often pictured suffering and God's judgment.

“Or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?”

Here **baptism** means being overwhelmed, plunged into suffering.

Jesus was speaking of His death.

Cross References

Matthew 20:22

> Jesus said, “You don't know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup I am about to drink?”

Luke 12:50

> I have a baptism to go through, and I am very troubled until it is finished.

John 18:11

> Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword away! Shouldn't I drink the cup the Father has given Me?”

Spiritual Principle

The path to glory with Jesus passes through suffering.

Key Truth

The cup Jesus drank was the cup of our judgment.

XXXIX. WE CAN

Mark 10:39 — You Will Drink the Cup

"We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with,"

"We can."

They answered confidently.

They did not really understand.

"You will drink the cup I drink."

Jesus told them they would suffer too.

James became the first apostle to die for Jesus.

John suffered exile and persecution for his faith.

Cross References

Matthew 20:23

> Jesus said, "You will drink from My cup."

Acts 12:2

> Herod had James, the brother of John, killed with a sword.

John 21:18

> When you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.

Spiritual Principle

Following Jesus may lead to suffering, but He is faithful through it.

Key Truth

The brothers who asked for glory were given a share in His suffering.

XL. NOT FOR ME TO GRANT

Mark 10:40 — Prepared Places

“but to sit at My right or left is not for Me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.””

“To sit at My right or left is not for Me to grant.”

Jesus humbly submitted to the Father's plan.

“These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.”

The Father decides these things.

Honor in the kingdom is God's gift, not something we grab.

Cross References

Matthew 20:23

> But I cannot choose who will sit at My right or left. Those places belong to those for whom My Father has prepared them.

Matthew 25:34

> Come here, you whom My Father has blessed. Take the kingdom He has had ready for you ever since He made the world.

John 14:2

> My Father's home has plenty of room. I am going ahead to get a place ready for you.

Spiritual Principle

Places of honor in God's kingdom are God's to give.

Key Truth

We serve; God rewards.

XLI. THE TEN WERE INDIGNANT

Mark 10:41 — Angry with James and John

“When the ten heard this, they became indignant with James and John.”

The other disciples were angry.

Why?

Probably because they wanted those places too.

Their anger showed the same pride.

Selfish ambition always leads to division.

Cross References

Matthew 20:24

> When the other ten followers heard this, they were angry with the two brothers.

Luke 22:24

> Then the followers began to argue about which of them was the most important.

Galatians 5:26

> Let us not get puffed up, stir each other up, or envy one another.

Spiritual Principle

Selfish ambition divides God's people.

Spiritual Warning

Anger at another's pride may reveal our own.

XLII. LORDING IT OVER THEM

Mark 10:42 — The Way of the World

“Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.”

“Jesus called them together.”

He gathered all twelve.

“Those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them.”

The world's leaders use power to control others.

“And their high officials exercise authority over them.”

In the world, greatness means power over others.

That was the Roman way.

It is still the way of the world.

Cross References

Matthew 20:25

> Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the non-Jewish people love to show their power over them.”

Luke 22:25

> The kings of the world rule over their people, and those in power want to be called friends of the people.

1 Peter 5:3

> Do not be like a ruler over people you are responsible for, but be good examples to them.

Spiritual Principle

The world defines greatness as power over others.

Key Truth

The kingdom of God works in the opposite direction.

XLIII. NOT SO WITH YOU

Mark 10:43 — Be a Servant

“Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,”

“Not so with you.”

Three powerful words.

God's people must be different.

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.”

In God's kingdom, greatness is measured by service.

Not by how many serve you.

But by how many you serve.

Cross References

Matthew 20:26

> It must not be like that with you. Whoever wants to be important must become your servant.

Matthew 23:11

> The person who serves you is the greatest among you.

Luke 22:26

> But you must not be like that. The greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the leader should be like a servant.

Spiritual Principle

In Christ's kingdom, greatness is measured by service.

Application

Are you seeking to be served or to serve?

XLIV. SLAVE OF ALL

Mark 10:44 — The Way to Be First

“and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.”

Jesus went even further.

A **servant** worked for others.

A **slave** belonged completely to others.

The first in God's kingdom is the one who gives himself fully to serving everyone.

Cross References

Matthew 20:27

Whoever wants to be first must become your slave.

Mark 9:35

Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and the servant of all.

Matthew 23:11

The greatest among you will be your servant.

Spiritual Principle

The highest place in God's kingdom belongs to the one who serves all.

Key Truth

The way to the top is to go to the bottom.

XLV. A RANSOM FOR MANY

Mark 10:45 — Why Jesus Came

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.””

This may be the key verse of Mark's Gospel.

“For even the Son of Man.”

The Son of Man from Daniel 7 was to be served by all nations.

“Did not come to be served, but to serve.”

But Jesus came to serve.

“And to give His life.”

His service would go all the way to death.

“As a ransom.”

A **ransom** was the price paid to set a slave or prisoner free.

Jesus paid the price for our freedom with His life.

“For many.”

He died in our place.

This verse explains the cross.

Cross References

Matthew 20:28

> The Son of Man did not come to be served. He came to serve others and to give His life to pay the price that frees many people.

Isaiah 53:10

> It was the Lord's will to crush Him and make Him suffer. He made His life an offering for sin.

1 Timothy 2:6

> He gave Himself to pay for the freedom of all people. This message was told at the right time.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus came to serve and to give His life to set us free.

Key Truth

The greatest servant of all paid the highest price of all.

XLVI. BARTIMAEUS BY THE ROADSIDE

Mark 10:46 — Leaving Jericho

“They came to Jericho. As Jesus and His disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside.”

“They came to Jericho.”

Jericho was about fifteen miles from Jerusalem.

The last stop before the city.

“Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus).”

Mark gives his name.

He may have been known to the early church.

“A blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside.”

He could not work.

He depended on others' kindness.

Matthew mentions two blind men, and Luke places the healing as Jesus approached Jericho.

Many Bible students explain these differences in several ways, such as old and new Jericho being two nearby towns.

Cross References

Matthew 20:29

As Jesus and His followers were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed Him.

Luke 18:35

As Jesus came near Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the road, begging.

Luke 19:1

Jesus was going through the city of Jericho.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus notices those sitting at the side of the road.

Key Truth

The crowd passed by, but Jesus would stop.

XLVII. SON OF DAVID, HAVE MERCY!

Mark 10:47 — He Cried Out

“When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!””

“When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth.”

He heard the crowd.

“He began to cry out.”

He shouted.

“Jesus, Son of David.”

This is a title for the Messiah.

The promised King from David's family.

The blind man saw what many with eyes did not.

“Have mercy on me!”

He did not ask for money.

He asked for mercy.

Cross References

Matthew 20:30

> Two blind men sitting by the road heard that Jesus was passing by, so they shouted, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

Luke 18:38

> The blind man shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Matthew 9:27

> Two blind men followed Him, calling out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!”

Spiritual Principle

A cry for mercy is the beginning of faith.

Key Truth

The blind man saw who Jesus was before he could see anything else.

XLVIII. HE SHOUTED ALL THE MORE

Mark 10:48 — Refusing to Be Silenced

“Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!””

“Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet.”

The crowd tried to silence him.

He was just a beggar.

He was making noise.

“But he shouted all the more.”

He would not give up.

He knew this was his chance.

Persistent faith does not let others silence it.

Cross References

Matthew 20:31

> The crowd told them to be quiet, but they shouted even louder, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

Luke 18:39

> The people in front told him to be quiet, but he shouted even more.

Matthew 15:23

> His followers said, “Send her away. She keeps shouting after us.”

Spiritual Principle

Persistent faith keeps calling out to Jesus even when others try to stop it.

Application

What voices are trying to silence your cry to Jesus?

XLIX. HE IS CALLING YOU

Mark 10:49 — Jesus Stopped

“Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! Get up; He is calling you.””

“Jesus stopped.”

Jesus was on His way to the cross.

Yet He stopped for one blind beggar.

“Call him.”

Jesus invited him.

“Cheer up! Get up; He is calling you.”

The same crowd that told him to be quiet now encouraged him.

What beautiful words.

He is calling you.

Cross References

Matthew 20:32

> Jesus stopped and called the blind men.

Luke 18:40

> Jesus stopped and ordered the blind man to be brought to Him.

John 11:28

> Martha went back and called her sister Mary. She said quietly, “The Teacher is here, and He is asking for you.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus stops for those who call to Him.

Key Truth

The sweetest words anyone can hear: “He is calling you.”

L. THROWING HIS CLOAK ASIDE

Mark 10:50 — He Jumped Up

“Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.”

“Throwing his cloak aside.”

For a beggar, the cloak was precious.

It kept him warm.

It may have been spread out to collect coins.

He left it behind.

“He jumped to his feet.”

He did not hesitate.

“And came to Jesus.”

What a contrast with the rich man.

The rich man would not leave his wealth.

The beggar left his only possession to come to Jesus.

Cross References

Luke 18:40

> When he came near, Jesus asked him.

Isaiah 35:5

> Then the blind will see again.

Hebrews 12:1

> So let us drop every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that tangles our feet, and keep running the race God has marked out for us.

Spiritual Principle

Throw aside whatever holds you back from coming to Jesus.

Application

What “cloak” do you need to throw aside to come to Jesus?

LI. I WANT TO SEE

Mark 10:51 — What Do You Want?

““What do you want Me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.””

“What do you want Me to do for you?”

The same question Jesus asked James and John.

They asked for power and position.

“Rabbi, I want to see.”

Bartimaeus asked for sight.

He knew his need.

The disciples were spiritually blind.

Bartimaeus was physically blind but spiritually seeing.

Cross References

Matthew 20:32

> Jesus asked, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

Luke 18:41

> “What do you want Me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, I want to see again.”

Mark 10:36

> He asked them, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

Spiritual Principle

Those who know their need receive what they ask for.

Key Truth

Two disciples asked for glory; a beggar asked for sight.

LII. YOUR FAITH HAS HEALED YOU

Mark 10:52 — He Followed Jesus

“Jesus said, “Go, your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.”

“Go, your faith has healed you.”

The word **healed** can also mean saved.

Bartimaeus was healed in body and soul.

“Immediately he received his sight.”

Instant healing.

“And followed Jesus along the road.”

Jesus said, “Go.”

But Bartimaeus chose to follow.

The road was the road to Jerusalem.

The road to the cross.

Bartimaeus is a picture of a true disciple.

He saw clearly, and he followed.

Cross References

Matthew 20:34

> Jesus felt sorry for them and touched their eyes. Right away they could see, and they followed Him.

Luke 18:43

> At once he could see, and he followed Jesus, praising God.

Luke 17:19

> Then Jesus said to him, “Get up and go. Your faith has made you well.”

Spiritual Principle

True faith sees Jesus clearly and follows Him on the road.

Key Truth

The man who could not see became the man who followed.

LIII. SIX GREAT LESSONS FROM MARK 10

1. Marriage Is God's Design

“What God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Principle:

What God joins, people must not separate.

2. Childlike Faith Is Essential

"Anyone who does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Principle:

The kingdom belongs to those who come with the humility and trust of children.

3. Wealth Can Hinder Salvation

"How hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!"

Principle:

Trust in riches blinds the heart, but with God all things are possible.

4. True Discipleship Requires Surrender

"We have left everything to follow You!"

Principle:

Following Jesus may cost much now, but eternal life awaits.

5. Greatness Comes Through Service

"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve."

Principle:

Jesus modeled servant leadership, even to the point of giving His life.

6. Faith Brings Healing

"Go, your faith has healed you."

Principle:

Like Bartimaeus, persistent faith in Christ brings restoration.

LIV. GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE

Verses 1–12 show Jesus' high view of marriage.

Marriage Begins with God

“From the beginning of creation.”

Marriage Is Between Male and Female

“God made them male and female.”

Marriage Creates a New Family

“A man shall leave his father and mother.”

Marriage Makes Two One

“The two shall become one flesh.”

Marriage Is Meant to Last

“What God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Grace for the Broken

- God's design is high, but His grace is deep.
- Those who have been through divorce can find forgiveness, healing, and a place in God's family.
- No one should stay in a situation of abuse; seek safety and help.
- Churches should apply this teaching with both truth and compassion.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Honor God's design for marriage, and extend His grace to all who are hurting.

LV. THE RICH MAN AND THE BLIND BEGGAR

Mark 10 shows two men who met Jesus.

The Rich Man

- Had great wealth.
- Came running to Jesus.
- Asked what he could do.
- Would not let go of his riches.
- Went away sad.

Bartimaeus

- Had nothing but a cloak.
- Sat by the roadside.
- Cried out for mercy.
- Threw his cloak aside.
- Followed Jesus on the road.

Key Truth

The man who had everything walked away; the man who had nothing followed.

LVI. THE SERVANT KING

Verses 35–45 show the heart of Jesus' mission.

The World's Way

- Seek the best seats.
- Rule over others.
- Use power for yourself.

Jesus' Way

- Serve others.
- Be the slave of all.

- Give your life for others.

What Jesus Did

“To give His life as a ransom for many.”

He paid the price to set us free.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The King of kings came as the Servant of all.

LVII. WHAT MARK 10 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

He Teaches God's Truth

“As was His custom, He taught them.”

He Upholds God's Design

“From the beginning of creation.”

He Welcomes Children

“Let the children come to Me.”

He Loves Seekers

“Jesus looked at him with love.”

He Makes the Impossible Possible

“With God all things are possible.”

He Walks Toward the Cross

“Jesus leading the way.”

He Came to Serve

“Did not come to be served, but to serve.”

He Is the Ransom

“To give His life as a ransom for many.”

He Is the Son of David

“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus is the Servant King who gave His life to set us free.

LVIII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why did the Pharisees ask Jesus about divorce?

To test Him and trap Him, since teachers disagreed and Herod had divorced to remarry.

Question 2

Why did Moses allow divorce?

Because of the hardness of people's hearts, not because it was God's plan.

Question 3

Where did Jesus go to explain God's plan for marriage?

Back to creation, where God made them male and female and joined them as one.

Question 4

Why were the disciples wrong to stop the children?

Because the kingdom of God belongs to those who are like children.

Question 5

What does it mean to receive the kingdom like a child?

To receive it humbly and trustingly as a gift, not to earn it.

Question 6

What did the rich man lack?

A heart that put God above his wealth.

Question 7

Must every Christian sell everything?

Jesus gave this command to this man because his wealth ruled him; He calls every believer to put Him above everything.

Question 8

What does the camel and the needle mean?

Salvation is humanly impossible, but with God all things are possible.

Question 9

What did Jesus promise those who leave everything for Him?

A hundredfold now, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come.

Question 10

What did James and John ask for?

The seats of honor at Jesus' right and left in His glory.

Question 11

What does “a ransom for many” mean?

Jesus paid the price with His life to set us free from sin.

Question 12

What should Mark 10 change about the way Christians live today?

Mark 10 should cause believers to live:

- Honoring God's design for marriage.
- Welcoming and blessing children.
- Receiving God's kingdom with childlike trust.
- Refusing to let wealth rule their hearts.
- Willing to leave anything for Jesus.
- Seeking to serve rather than to be served.
- Remembering the ransom Jesus paid.
- Crying out to Jesus with persistent faith.

LIX. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Mark 10 asks several important questions.

Am I Honoring God's Design for Marriage?

In my own life and in how I speak of it?

Am I Showing Grace to the Hurting?

Including those who have been through divorce?

Am I Helping Children Come to Jesus?

Or standing in their way?

Am I Receiving God's Kingdom Like a Child?

Or trying to earn it?

What Is My “One Thing”?

What stands between me and following Jesus fully?

Do I Trust in Riches?

Where does my sense of security come from?

Am I Seeking Position or Service?

Do I want the best seat or the lowest place?

Am I Like Bartimaeus?

Do I cry out to Jesus and follow Him on the road?

LX. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Not to Be Served, but to Serve”

James and John wanted the best seats.

The ten were angry because they wanted them too.

All twelve were thinking about greatness.

Jesus gathered them together.

He showed them how the world works.

Rulers who lord it over others.

Officials who use power to control.

Then He said, **“Not so with you.”**

In His kingdom, the great serve.

The first become slaves of all.

And then Jesus pointed to Himself.

The Son of Man, who deserved to be served by every nation, came to serve.

He came to give His life as a ransom.

He did not just teach servanthood.

He lived it, all the way to the cross.

This creates a powerful principle.

If the King of kings came to serve, no follower of His is too important to serve.

Principle:

Follow the Servant King by giving your life in service to others.

LXI. FINAL APPLICATION

Mark Chapter 10 shows the values of God's kingdom.

It honors God's design for marriage.

It welcomes little children.

It warns about the danger of riches.

It promises reward for those who leave everything.

It shows Jesus walking toward the cross.

It defines greatness as service.

It reveals Jesus as the ransom for many.

And it shows a blind beggar who saw clearly and followed.

Mark 10 therefore reminds us:

Never treat marriage lightly.

Never keep children from Jesus.

Never let wealth rule your heart.

Never seek greatness by grasping.

Never forget the ransom Jesus paid.

The church does not need people seeking the best seats.

It needs:

Faithful husbands and wives.

Childlike hearts.

Disciples who leave everything for Jesus.

And servants who follow the Servant King.

The same Jesus still calls:

Tell people that God's design is good.

Tell people that the kingdom is a gift for those who receive it like children.

Tell people that with God all things are possible.

Tell people that Jesus gave His life as a ransom for many.

And as you live:

Receive like a child.

Let go of what holds you back.

Serve others.

Follow Jesus on the road.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your good design for marriage and family.

Thank You for Your grace for all who are broken and hurting.

Thank You that Jesus welcomes children in His arms.

Thank You that Your kingdom is a gift we receive with empty hands.

Thank You that what is impossible for us is possible with You.

Thank You that Jesus walked willingly toward the cross.

Thank You that He came not to be served, but to serve.

Thank You that He gave His life as a ransom for many.

Forgive us when we have treated Your design lightly.

Forgive us when we have kept others from coming to Jesus.

Forgive us when we have trusted in riches instead of You.

Forgive us when we have sought the best seats instead of the lowest place.

Help us receive Your kingdom like little children.

Show us anything that stands between us and following You.

Make us servants of all.

Give us persistent faith like Bartimaeus.

And help us follow Jesus on the road, wherever it leads.

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” — Mark 10:45

Central Truth

Jesus calls His followers to honor God's design for marriage, receive the kingdom like children, value Him above all wealth, and find true greatness in serving, because He came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many.

Mark 10 in One Sentence

On the road to Jerusalem, Jesus upholds God's design for lifelong marriage, welcomes children as models of the kingdom, lovingly calls a rich man to leave his wealth, predicts His death a third time, teaches that true greatness is service because He came to give His life as a ransom for many, and heals blind Bartimaeus, who follows Him on the road.