



GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

A Ransom for Many: The Gospel of Mark - "Am I Going To Heaven?"

Mark 10:17-31

Read Mark 10:17-20. This story is commonly called the Story of The Rich, Young Ruler. We learn from Mathew and Luke that he is a young ruler and from Mark (as you will see) that he's very rich. He comes and falls at Jesus' feet with a specific question. What's different about this guy than most of the people we have seen come to Jesus thus far?

According to v17 what is his specific question?

How does he seem to think he will get what he's seeking?

This guy is representative of many people in today's world – even many people who say they believe in God. Most people think they will go to heaven because they are good people. We tend to think if we live a good enough life we'll be ushered into heaven someday. There are many problems with this, but one of the main ones is we tend to think we are good by comparing ourselves to others who we deem to be "really bad." With that in mind why do you think Jesus asks the question He asks him at the beginning of v18?

Why do you think Jesus follows that question up by saying "no one is God but God alone?"

Read v19. It would appear that Jesus busts out 6 of the 10 commandments on this guy to help him understand that compared to God and God's law he's not quite as good as he thinks. In my sermon I said "sometimes God's get people lost before He can get them found." Why is it essential that we understand we are guilty sinners who could never be good enough for salvation in order to receive salvation?

According v20 how does this young man respond to Jesus telling him to just perfectly obey these commands of God? What does his response reveal?

You'd think Jesus would un-cork on this guy for his insane level of self-righteousness, but he doesn't. According to v21 how does Jesus feel about this young man who is convinced he's good and can attain eternal life based on his own merits?

Jesus says to him, "One thing you lack. Go sell all you have, give all the money from the sale to the poor, then come follow me and you will have treasures in heaven." Is Jesus saying if he does this he will be gaining eternal life by this good work? If not, what is He implying by this question?

This seems like a great offer, but how does this religious, rich young man respond and why according to v22?

Why didn't Jesus stop him?

Read vv23-27. Why do you think it's hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of God? Do you think you are rich? Why or why not?

When it says the disciples were amazed it means extremely confused. They were confused because they were taught that wealth signified the favor and blessing of God. So, here they have a rich, moral, religious successful man who just learned he could never be good enough to go to heaven. The disciples are thinking, "If he can't get in no one can." How does Jesus respond to their confusion about this?

Salvation is possible with God if we do what Jesus said in Mark 10:13-16. Read that and explain how we should receive salvation.

What do you think those of us who have already received the kingdom of God like little children can learn from vv23-27?

Why does Jesus tend to go after the "one thing" in our lives that is hindering us from following Him more fully?

Do you think money is commonly something many Christians have a hard time truly surrendering to God? Why or why not?

Do you think sexuality is something many Christians have a hard time surrendering to God? Why or why not?

Why is it so much more real when Jesus says to us "I just want that one thing" instead of saying, "I want everything"?

Read vv28-31. In your words, what do you think Jesus is trying to convey to those who are willing to give things up to follow Him?