Mark

The **Gospel** of the **Servant of God**

I. The ***Service*** of the **Servant** (1:1-10:52)

A. **His *Preparation*** for **Ministry** (1:1-20)
B. **His *Powerful*** **Ministry** (1:21-2:12)
C. **His *Pointed*** **Defense** of **His Ministry** (2:13-3:6)
D. **His *Progressing*** **Ministry** (3:7-35)
E. **His *Practice*** of **Teaching** in **Parables** (4:1-34)
F. **His *Predominant*** **Power** (4:35-5:43)
G. **His *Preeminence*** in **Galilee** (6:1-9:50)

H. **His *Preaching*** **Ministry** in **Judea** (10:1-52)

1. ***Responding*** to a **Question** regarding **Divorce** (10:1-12)
2. ***Receiving*** and **Blessing** the **Children** (10:13-16)

3. ***Replying*** to a **Question** on **Eternal Life** (10:17-31)

[17] 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**?"

[18] And **Jesus** said to him, "**Why** do you **call Me good**?
No one is **good except God alone**.

[19] 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**.'"

[20] And **he** said to **Him,** "**Teacher**, I have ***kept*** all these things from my **youth up**."

[21] ***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**."

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

[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**!"

[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**!

[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**."

[26] They were even ***more*** **astonished** and said to **Him,** "Then **who** can **be saved**?"

[27] ***Looking*** at **them, Jesus** said, "With ***people*** it is **impossible,**
but **not** with **God;** for ***all things*** are **possible** with **God**."

[28] **Peter** began to say **to Him**, "Behold, **we** have **left everything** and **followed You**."

[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**,

[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**.

[31] But many *who are* **first** will be **last**, and the **last, first**."

Messiah's Teaching—A Summary
Messiah and the "Rich" Young Ruler (10:17-31)

1. Our text begins tonight with **Jesus** being approached by **a man** who **ran up** and **knelt** before **Him.** The **young man** addresses **Him** as **"Good Teacher,"** to which **Jesus** responds, "***Why*** call **Me good**? **No one** is **good** except **God alone** (10:18)."

   Jesus' response is quite **instructive**, for the **title** given **God** in the **Talmud** is "the **Good One** of the **world**"—Edersheim. There is **none** who is **entirely**, **absolutely good** ***except*** **God** (Psalm 16:2, 53:1-3). I believe **Jesus** wanted the young ruler, who addressed **Him** as a **"Good" Teacher**, and respected **Him** as a very learned **mentor**, to **recognize His divinity..**

2. The **young ruler** then asked the **Messiah** an **essential question**, "**What** do **I do** to **inherit eternal life**?" In the book of **Matthew** we read that **Jesus responded**, "...if you wish to **enter into life**, **keep** the **commandment**s." The **man** then responded, "**Which ones**?" **Jesus** then declared to him basically the **second table** of **commandments**, to the **man** replied, "**all** these things **I have kept** (*from my youth*); **what** am I **still lacking** (Matt. 17b-18a)?"

Jesus then said **to Him**:

"**One thing** you still **lack**;.."(Luke 18:22a)

"If you wish to be **complete**, **go** and **sell your possessions**
and **give** to **the poor**, and you will have ***treasure*** in **heaven**;
and **come, follow me** (Matt. 19:21)."

When the **young man** heard this he went away **grieving** for he was **extremely rich**, and ***owned*** **much property** (Matt. 19:22, Luke 18:23). **He** was **sorrowful** because he was **greatly attached** to his **worldly wealth,** which became a **stumbling block** to genuine **faith in God**. According to Edersheim, "What the **rich young ruler lacked**: was **earth's *poverty*** and **heaven's *riches*; a heart fully set** on **following Messiah**: and this could only come to him **through willing surrender** of **all.**" "Instead he went back to his **rich home**—**very poor**."

3. At this point **Jesus** looked around and said to **His disciples** that it would be **hard** for the **wealthy** to **enter** the **kingdom of God**. **He** then shared this Jewish **proverb** that illustrated this: "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** (10:25)."

   At this remark the **disciples** were ***astonished*** and **asked Him**, "**Who** then can be **saved** (10:26).?" They were quite possibly thinking, that if **a lifelong *law-abiding*** synagogue **ruler,** who was **"blessed"** by **God** with **great wealth**, was **unable** to **enter** the **kingdom of God**, **who** then **can enter**?

   The **Messiah's response** was both **comforting** and **instructive**. **He** answered them by declaring that "With **people** it is **impossible**, but **not** with **God;** for **all things** are **possible** with **God** (10:27)." I believe **He** is **assuring them**, that if they **followed** after **Him** in **true faith**, **He** would **provide** for their **salvation**, and be the means by which they would **inherit eternal life.** For they would soon come to know that "**by grace**" they would be **saved** *through* **faith**; and that (it would be) **not** of **themselves**, for it is the **gift of God** (Eph. 2:8).

4. After this **Peter** said to **the Lord**, "Behold, **we** have **left *everything*** and **followed you** (10:28)." Though they did **not have many possessions** like the rich young ruler, **Jesus' disciples** had **left all** that they had to **follow Him**.

   Though not recorded in **Mark**, **Jesus** responded to **His disciples** by revealing that "in the ***regeneration*** when the **Son of Man** will **sit** on **His glorious throne**," that they would **also sit upon twelve thrones**, **judging** the **twelve tribes** of **Israel** (Matt. 19:28).

   Jesus also makes this **promise** to **all believers**;

"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**,

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.** (10:29-30)

5. Our text tonight closes with **Jesus declaring:**

"But **many** *who are* ***first*** will be ***last***, and the ***last, first*** (10:31)."

Though there are a number **interpretations** this verse, I favor this explanation:

"There will be many **surprises** in **heaven.**
Heaven's value system is far **different** from **earth's value system**.
Those who are **esteemed** and **respected** in ***this*** **world** (like the **rich young ruler**) may be **frowned** upon **by God**. The **opposite** is also **true**: those who are **despised** and **rejected** in ***this*** **world** (like the **disciples**) may, in fact, be **rewarded by God**...

Those who are **first** in the opinion of **others** (or **first** in their **own opinion**!) may be surprised to learn, on **Judgment Day**, they are **last** in **God's opinion**."
("**What did Jesus mean...**" **Got Questions.org**)