**Sermon Based Small Group: Mark 10: 17-31**

**“TOUGH**TALKS: Yes, Money Can Buy Happiness

**Introduction**

* What is your counselling style? Do people come back to you after two weeks… or ever?

**Reviewing the Teaching**

* Read Mark 10: 17-31.
* What stood out to you as a potentially significant takeaway in this week’s teaching?
  + Why did it stand out?
  + How does it relate to you in your life situation now?
* “What do I need to do to receive the big picture life my heart is really looking for?”
  + Review the three dimensions of life, bios (how much?), psyche (how well?) and zoe (quintessential life).
  + In Bible, *zoe* is only used of a “God” kind of life. It is the life *of* God and the life that God wants to share with us. Whenever the NT talks about “eternal” life ... it is always this word. Read John 10:10; 14:6 and 17:3. What is life?
  + Discuss this statement, “Life is found in a relationship with Jesus.” Do you agree? What do we need to do?
* Jesus is exposing, in this man’s heart, the one thing that was keeping him from the one thing he really wanted. He says, “One thing you lack…” (v. 21)
  + There are many words used in this passage to describe heaven: the kingdom of God, treasure in heaven, eternal life and saved. What are the implications of a kingdom?
  + We have things that hold us back when Jesus invites us to follow Him. What held the man who approached him back? Do you agree that Jesus was identifying the things that the man back, the things he wanted to control?
  + How do we respond the challenge of staying in control vs. having the life God offers?
* What makes Jesus’ “do” doable? (v. 27)
  + Who do we give up control to? Is it someone else, or Someone “good”?

**Digging Deeper**

* There are a lot of questions in Mark, either to or from Jesus. Our passage today starts with two questions, “Good teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” and, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.”
  + The first thing to do when you see a question in Mark is to ask, *what is the correct answer to the question?* Do this for the first question. Do not think of the context, just answer the question.
  + Now look at the man’s bias. He asks what shall **“*I do”***? This gets explored a little more in verses 26 and 27. One focus in this section of Mark is the coming crucifixion of Jesus. Does this help you to think of the correct answer?
  + Jesus almost ignores his question. “Why do you call me good?” What is the correct answer to this question? Why did Jesus ask it?
  + Let’s summarize some of this. The man is talking to God. God will make life possible for him. God is inviting the man to follow Him. When the man approached Jesus, do you think these were the answers he expected? Did the man’s responses show that he understood the answers?
  + In verse 20, how does the man say he responds to God’s commands? Jesus give him a command. (Just go along here, you might describe this as an invitation but the response to the question is a call to act) How did the man respond to a direct command from God?

* Now look at Mark 2:7. The scribes ask the question, “who can forgive sins except God alone?” What is the correct answer to this question? Their bias is that Jesus is not God. What is the correct response for the scribes?
* Mark 4: 38 and 41 has two interesting questions? “Do you not care that we are perishing?” Why would they ask the question? Did Jesus care? Think through the answer to the question in verse 41. Who does the wind and the sea obey? (their Creator) What is our correct response to being in God’s presence?
* Try this out the next time you see a question in Mark.

**Applying it to Life**

* Jesus peels back the layers and exposes the core struggles that we have in following Him? What is that core issue? Who is the king of your kingdom? What is your control issue?
* How does our being in control contribute to having a full life, “zoe”? Read Mark 8:34.
* The only way to give up control to God is to see that God is good. How can we do that?

**Prayer**

* Praise God for His goodness. Take time to understand how good God is. Ask God to show you how trustworthy He is?
* Continue to pray for specific needs in your group.
* Is there something else from the message that you would like to pray about.