

## Daily Bible Study

### *“Living The Good Life”*

*Mark 10:28 - 31*

*July 24 – July 30, 2011*

**THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY** –We now return to our study of Mark’s Gospel and we pick up the text at **Mark 10:28-31**. This is the last of three lessons from this section of Scripture which all started when a man came to ask Jesus a question concerning what he must do to *inherit eternal life*. We learned that Jesus answered His question by revealing to the man that he needed to repent and renounce of his genuine love (riches) and turn and trust totally on the *only One that is good*, the *Good God*, The Lord Jesus Christ Himself. The man went away said because he didn’t want to turn from his love of riches and Jesus then went on to teach the disciples how difficult it is *for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God*. It is not because God can’t and doesn’t save any wealthy people but Jesus wanted His men and us to see the danger and strength of the sin of pride and self-sufficiency that is increased and strengthened by a pursuit of things. In this week’s text, the disciples will point out that they have forsaken “things” (*all*) to follow Jesus and Peter and the other disciples will receive a very comforting answer from The Lord. The Lord is no man’s debtor and Jesus basically assures them of their reward and blessing for forsaking all and following Him and then He ends the text before us by giving them a warning. This promise is for all true followers of the Lord as opposed to one for the twelve alone (**Matthew 19:28-29**). It is for all people who have chosen Christ above everything else; including even their dear relatives and most cherished possessions. Jesus explains they have made a sacrifice, “*for My sake and the gospel’s*” which tells us their motivation was love for Jesus and they understood and desired the promises of His salvation message. Read our text for this week: **Mark 10:28- 31** “*Then Peter began to say to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You.” So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”*”

*(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?*

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*Suggestion for Prayer:* *Father God, teach and feed me from Your Word this week. Give me ears to hear the truth of Sacred Scripture and the power and desire to obey it.*

**TUESDAY** – **Mark 10:28:** “*Then Peter began to say to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You.”* This first very short yet packed verse is summed up well for us by William Barclay who states: “Peter’s mind had been working, and, characteristically, his tongue could not stay still. He had just seen a man deliberately refuse Jesus’ ‘Follow me!’ He had just heard Jesus say in effect that that man by his action had shut himself out from the kingdom of God. Peter could not help drawing the contrast between that man and himself and his friends. Just as the man had refused Jesus’ ‘Follow me!’ he and his friends had accepted it, and Peter with that almost crude honesty of his wanted to know what he and his friends were to get out of it.” As we observe and unfold this text we need to start here; realizing at least two facts; 1. That the call of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a call to complete self-denial and repentant faith. 2. As mentioned earlier, Jesus is no man’s debtor. He will and does reward obedient sacrifice. Talk concerning any type of “payback” or being rewarded is almost immediately resisted by those of us who love and understand sovereign grace. We have and do receive the gift of faith and repentance, salvation in Jesus, freely by God’s grace alone. We also receive blessing and in a very real way are “rewarded” by God in His grace (**Hebrews 11:6**). We have not earned and therefore are entitled and demand blessing for obedience, but God has graciously said that He will reward and bless them who do obey and follow His Son in genuine faith. We must always remember the very blessing (reward) itself has its genesis and roots in Divine Grace. So, like it or not, the disciples as saved sinners are curious as to the “dividends” found in following Jesus; selfish or not they are asking if there is a return on their investment so to speak and Jesus is making it very clear that He will owe no man anything. Even though men deserve none of God’s goodness, He not only graciously saves them but He also rewards and blesses them for their obedience to Him. The fact of the matter is that Peter and the twelve had left all to follow Jesus and Christ goes on to assure him that he will get it back “with interest” if you will.

*(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?*

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*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for Your love and grace toward me which is the reason I have anything that I receive from Your hand; from salvation and the forgiveness of sin to common everyday blessings. Help me never forget Father that You love me as Your child.*

**WEDNESDAY** – **Mark 10:29-30:** “*So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.”* After Peter has reminded Jesus that he and the disciples have left all to follow Him Jesus now answers. We find in the parallel passage in **Matthew 19** that Peter asked Jesus, “*What shall we have?*” In **Matthew 19:28-29** Jesus first deals with the twelve directly (also in a future time frame “*the regeneration*”) and then His answer addresses all of us as Christians who follow Jesus. You can see in Jesus words that He covers a wide variety of relationships and

things that true followers of His (Christians) both now and through the ages have *left* to follow Him. Many have had to choose between Jesus and smooth family relations, many have given up opportunity for marriage and children to obediently serve Jesus, and many have had to walk away from lucrative business and or business deals along with prosperity and wealth in order to be faithful followers of Christ. In short, Jesus says there is big “payback” for obedient faith. Faithful, loyal followers of the Lord Jesus are promised a return of “*a hundredfold now*”. Jesus is here talking of present day. Luke records Jesus words as, “*many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life.*” Even in a Christian’s lifetime before death, in the present day, before the final Day of Judgment, faithful followers of Jesus who have *left*... receive Jesus blessings. We often fail to see and remember many of the spiritual blessings we have as believers; we are reminded of them in passages such as **Proverbs 15:16, 16:8, Matthew 7:7, John 17:3, Romans 8:26–39, Philippians 4:7, 1 Timothy 6:6, Hebrews 6:19, 20, 10:34, 1 Peter 1:8.**

*(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?*

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*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me to see, appreciate, and understand the many blessings You bestow upon me and ways you reward that I often do not even notice or thank You for.*

**THURSDAY** – **Mark 10:29-30:** “*So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.”* What is actually quite incredible is the fact that Jesus said that *no one* ever *left* anything for *My* or the *gospel’s sake* who won’t get it back *a hundredfold*. From the very early days of the New Testament Church we see this was literally true. A person’s profession of faith in Jesus Christ and the embracing of Christianity often involved the loss of home, family, friends, etc... But true to Jesus words, entrance into the Christian Church brought and brings with it a new spiritual family, one far greater than any left behind. A man is rich and belongs to a large family because he now has as “his own” many new family members along with all their possessions, homes, and *lands* etc... which he benefits from and shares in enjoying. The Apostle Paul himself may be a perfect example of this. Many scholars believe that when Paul was converted most likely his earthly family disowned him. We may not be sure of all those details but we do know real changes did occur at his conversion. It seems that Saul/Paul appears now as a vagabond in some ways. Once a “religious insider” of the establishment he most likely is outcast from both earthly family and the false religious system that wouldn’t embrace Jesus. Furthermore, he was also at first feared by his new spiritual family. As time moves on we find in Scripture he articulates his relationships with specific believers in family terms. In **Romans 16:13**, he tells how the mother of Rufus was as good as a mother to him. In **Philemon 10**, he speaks of Onesimus as the son whose father he had become during his imprisonment. This was how it was with Christians in the New Testament. Even when their earthly families may have rejected them,

they now belong to a larger family; the family of God (Christ). Jesus is honest with His followers as he reminds them that blessing from following him is not separated from “*persecutions*”. In spite of the persecutions which they will have to endure in this life, they will receive *in the age to come, eternal life*. The Lord is so gracious that we as believers are able to enjoy material possessions (*houses...lands*) far more than the ungodly and unsaved enjoy theirs. This doesn’t mean non-Christians don’t find enjoyment in God’s common grace but rather we as believers fully enjoy God’s graces without anxiety and worry. We experience a peace and contentment found in knowing The Lord. This principle is illustrated to us in **Proverbs 10:22** and **Isaiah 26:3 & Isaiah 48:22**.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

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Suggestion for Prayer: *Father, thank s for blessing me through the shared life of my new family.*

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY** – **Mark 10:31:** “*But many who are first will be last and the last first*”. The Lord may have issued this warning to the twelve because it is so easy to fall into the error of expecting reward based on our own supposed merit. Peter, twelve, don’t think you deserve blessing and reward because of what you’ve done, God is the final judge. Those who may seem big and (*first*) in the world’s eyes may find out that they will be *last*. Read and meditate on **1 Samuel 16:7** and **Matthew 7:21-23**.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

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Suggestion for Prayer: *Father, help me understand ALL my blessings are a gift of Your grace.*