



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Kingdom Values

Focus Verses: Mark 10:21-22 - ²¹Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." ²²But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Lesson Text: Mark 10:17-31

Truth About God: God's kingdom is about giving and serving, not buying and having.

Truth For My Life: I will put God first in my life.

The rich ruler's life was overflowing with possessions, so he had no room to receive the eternal blessings he claimed to seek. Many people in today's materialistic world face the same problem. We work overtime and pursue side jobs so we can afford more stuff or make payments on what we already have. This often leaves us too exhausted to pray or spend time studying God's Word. We pack our children's schedules with games, tournaments, and recitals, hoping it will one day earn them a coveted college scholarship so they can enjoy a great-paying career. **If all those extracurricular activities happen to squeeze out Sunday worship, midweek Bible study, or family devotions, many dismiss it as collateral damage.** Jesus' calls us to clear the clutter that keeps us from Him. For some, that many include parting with a few material possessions.

Jesus did not ask the rich young ruler to do something He Himself was unwilling to do. Indeed, Jesus had already laid aside the glory of Heaven, which was worth far more than everything the young man owned, and embraced the suffering of earth. Paul explained this sacrifice in greater detail in [Philippians 2:5-8](#). Jesus, *"made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* Jesus willingly surrendered His life so we might have eternal life. The call to follow Jesus is a call to radical selflessness. It is a call to put others first, to seek God's kingdom above all else, even if it means abandoning what we previously held dear.

If God has blessed us with material wealth, we should be grateful for His provisions. We do not need to apologize for what we have or feel guilty because we have more than someone else. But we must also be careful not to cling so tightly to our blessings that they become a curse. Jesus assured Peter and the rest of His disciples that every sacrifice they made would be rewarded. What was true for those first disciples is also true for us. God sees every sacrifice we make on behalf of His kingdom, and He will reward a hundredfold. The blessings God gives in return will always be far greater than our original sacrifice. Best of all, Jesus promised that His followers would experience eternal life in the world to come.

Just as Jesus called the rich young ruler to follow Him, Jesus calls us to come, take up the cross, and follow Him. Carrying a cross may require us to abandon other pursuits. It will mean reshuffling our priorities. We cannot carry a cross for Jesus and carry the baggage of this world at the same time; we must abandon one for the other. **Carrying a cross requires self-denial.** Jesus previously told His followers, *"Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me"* (Mark 8:34). In words that foreshadowed His encounter with the rich young ruler, Jesus asked, *"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"* (Mark 8:36). The rich young ruler seemed to have everything, but in the end, he was destined to lose everything of real value.

For those who have decided to put God first and pick up a cross. Jesus promised, *"Many that are first shall be last; and the last first"* (Mark 10:31). God sees every sacrifice you have made; not one has been overlooked or forgotten. You can expect that He will reward a hundredfold in this life and in the one to come.

The writer of Hebrews summed up the stories of the unsung and mostly unknown heroes of the faith by noting that the world was not worthy of them. Furthermore, he added that they all *"obtained a good report through faith"* (Hebrews 11:38-39). They may not have had wealth or worldly fame, but they will receive the commendation of the King of kings who will one day say, *"Well done, good and faithful servant"* (Matthew 25:23).

May that be the epitaph of your life as well!