

Joy a Hundredfold
King Jesus, Pt. 14
Mark 10:17-31

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September 8, 2019



I. PRAYER

- i. TWO YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

II. INTRODUCTION

a. But I want to start with a question:

- i. What do you find most precious in your life?
 - What do you value more than anything else in the world?
- ii. Another way to ask the question: What causes you anxiety in life?
 - What do you worry about losing or missing out on the most?
 - What keeps you up at night?
- iii. So, my son Leland just started Kindergarten two weeks ago and he is riding the bus to school.
 - Now obviously Leland is one of the most precious things to my wife and me.
 - And so, when we walked to the bus stop on the first day of school and the bus pulls up and our son got on all by himself and the bus drove away...we felt anxiety.
 1. Do I just trust that the bus is going to magically show up at the right school and he will just magically appear at the bus stop later this afternoon?
 2. Yes, it's not magic. Kids have been doing it for decades. He'll be okay.
 - But because we find our son to be so precious, we feel anxiety over something happening to him.



b. So, what do you find most precious in life?

- i. Of course, many of us would say family and loved ones.
 - But if we evaluate our anxieties in life, I think we might find more subtle things that are precious to us.
- ii. **Maybe its Financial Security.**
 - For many of us, finances are a huge source of anxiety.
 1. Especially when the bills are more than our income.
 2. Or because we're in debt.
 3. Or because there are weeks and months where we wonder if we are going to be able to put food on the table or pay the rent.
 - So, when we have any sort of financial security, it can be really precious to us and we have anxiety over losing it.
- iii. **Maybe it's our wealth.**
 - God has blessed us with abundance, it is precious to us, and so we fear losing it.
 1. We live in a culture that says that success = constant expansion.
 2. To be successful with wealth means to constantly expand your wealth...retire early...invest more and more.
 3. So, we have anxiety over the expansion of our wealth.
- iv. **Maybe it's our reputation.**
 - We care very deeply about what people think about us. It matters to us that people think well of us. Our reputation is precious...
 1. So, we feel anxiety over what people might think about what we wear.



2. We feel anxiety over what people think of our ideas.
 3. We feel anxiety over our lifestyle, our parenting, how we practice our faith, the hobbies we have...
- v. It could be our job performance at work, the behavior of our kids, our social media influence, or whatever....
- c. In this fallen world, there is a correlation between what we find to be most precious and anxiety.**
- i. It's one of the greatest ironies of life...
 - The things that we believe will set us free and give us joy actually enslave us and give us anxiety.
 - ii. Think of our reputation.
 - We believe that if everyone thought well of us, we would be set free...we would have confidence in ourselves...and it will bring us joy.
 - But we actually are enslaved to it...we can't help but replay every interaction in our heads out of fear of what people think of us and it brings us anxiety.
 1. The things in life that we believe will set us free and give us joy actually enslave us and give us anxiety.
- d. And this morning, I want to show us that Jesus wants to be the thing that we find to be more precious than anything...**
- i. And when he has that place in our heart...that is where we find 100x more joy and freedom than anything else in this world.



III. KING JESUS RECAP

- a. I'm excited this morning to be starting chapter three of our KING JESUS sermon series that we have been in for the better part of the year.
- i. And if you were with us through the first two chapters of this sermon series, what we have been doing is laying out a theological foundation.
- We've been talking about basic truths about who God is and who we are as his creation.
- ii. Chapter One was called the King Rejected.
- We studied how God created us in His own image.
 1. Meaning that our life's purpose, the source of our joy was to live our lives imaging...representing Him...pointing to Him...glorifying Him.
 2. We said: In love, God created me not to be the center of my story...but for Him to be.
 - But we rejected this purpose and we sinned against God.
 1. In other words, we told God...God I don't want my life's purpose to be centered on you...I want it to be centered on me.
 2. We said: In sin, I have abused God, creation, and others in order to be the center of my story.



- And so in response, God banished us from his presence and His Kingdom. We wanted to be without God, and He gave us what we wanted.
 1. And the world fell into brokenness and sin.
- iii. **But then we went to Chapter Two called the King Redeems.**
 - And we learned that God is eager to restore us to His Kingdom.
 - And He sends His Son Jesus to do what needs to be done so we could be forgiven and to teach us, again, the ways of His Kingdom.
 1. And when we have been made right with God through Christ and when we live our lives in the way God originally intended...under His authority...according to His Word...with Him at the center...imaging Him and not ourselves...
 2. That is where we find true joy and freedom.

b. And so, if I could summarize chapters one and two in the simplest terms...it is this:

i. **JESUS IS KING**

- He has saved us and now we follow Him as children of God knowing there is only pain when we live for ourselves and there is only joy when we live for Him.
- JESUS IS KING.

c. And so today, we start chapter three called the King Reigns.



- i. And my goal for this chapter is to build on top of this truth and ask the question...
 - What does it now look like to live our lives with Jesus as our Lord and King?
 1. No longer living my life with me at the center. What I think is right. What I want.
 2. But with Jesus at the center.
- ii. And I want to start chapter three today by talking about what our King truly wants from us...
 - And here it is...Our King wants to be what is most precious to us.
 1. He wants to be the thing that we treasure more than anything else.
 - And it is right here where we find out if Jesus is our true king or not...it's right here where we find out what we truly believe...
 1. Do I believe my joy is found in Jesus being the center of everything?
 2. Or do I still believe the lie that my joy is found in me being the center of everything?

IV. MARK 10:17-22

- In Mark 10, Jesus has an encounter with someone in front of His disciples that forces everyone to wrestle with this question.
 1. **Read Mark 10:17-22**
- a. Now, when we read this text, the first thing that we might be wondering is if Jesus is preaching a gospel of works here.**



- i. Is Jesus saying that to be saved and reconciled with God, all you have to do is keep the ten commandments and give all that you have to the poor?
 - Like, that's the contract.
 1. Keep the 10 commandments.
 2. Give everything you have to the poor.
 3. That's it. Do that and you go to heaven.
 4. Doing that will cancel out all of your sin.
 5. It doesn't matter the condition of your heart, all that matters is what you do.
 - Is that what Jesus is saying?
- ii. And the answer is a clear no...that's not what Jesus is teaching...in fact Jesus is actually teaching the exact opposite...and we're going to read that in the next few verses...

b. But before we go there, I just want to zoom in on what Jesus just did.

- i. The text says here that when Jesus brought this guy's money into the equation, that he walked away disheartened.
 - This word for disheartened in the Greek text kind of has two meanings attached to it.
 1. It means to be shocked or appalled at something.
 2. So, this man was surprised by Jesus' answer here.
 3. But it also means to be gloomy and dark.
 4. In Matthew, this word is used to describe a gloomy and dark, stormy sky.
 - The man was depressed because what Jesus did was he went after what was most precious to this man.



1. He created a scenario where this man would have to choose if he'd rather hold on to all of his riches or would he rather have eternal life with God.
- ii. Effectively, what Jesus was saying...if you want eternal life...then I have to be your God. I have to be the object of your worship. I have to be what is most precious to you, and nothing else.
 - What Jesus did was point out the god that this guy worshiped.
 1. And said, if you want to follow me, you have to stop following that god.
 2. And this guy was disheartened because he was not willing to forsake his god.

c. And it forces us to ask the question, if we were having this conversation with Jesus...what would Jesus point out for us?

- i. What is so precious to us, that Jesus would point to it and say, if you want to follow me, you have to give up that.
 - We live in one of the wealthiest counties of the wealthiest nation the world has ever seen.
 1. Maybe what Jesus said to this man is what he would say to us.
 2. Give up your money, your houses, your comforts...
 3. Right, we can't even fathom voluntarily giving away all that we have...
 4. In fact, even that notion shocks, appalls us...like it did this man.



- For me...you know what I think Jesus would point out for me...(and I don't want to share this).
 1. But I'll be honest with you because I want you to be honest with yourself.
 2. I think Jesus would say, Allan, you need to give up your desire for fame.
 3. Your desire to pastor a massive church.
 4. The desire for people to see you and applaud you as successful.
 5. Oh man, look at you, you planted this church, and look how big it is now.
 6. Allan, I need to be enough for you. And you need to be okay with no one knowing who you are outside of your church and your neighbors.
- You know what I think Jesus would say to most of us?
 1. You need to give up your desire to fit-in.
 2. The desire to fit-in to this world.
 3. That when the world looks at you, they don't see anything out of place or abnormal.
 4. They don't see someone who believes in a God who created all this.
 5. They see someone...normal.
 6. And Jesus might say to us...you need to give that up to follow me because if you do, you will not fit-in or be "normal."
- What do you think Jesus would say to you?
 1. What is the thing Jesus would say that would tempt you to walk away disheartened because he pointed out the one thing that you find most precious?



d. Now, I know that most of you are thinking...

- i. Allan, you're beatin' me up, up there.
 - I get what you're saying...but what your suggesting is easier said than done.
 1. I can't just command my heart to change.
 2. I struggle with all kinds of things that I find more precious than God.
 3. I wish I didn't, but I do.
 4. I mean, I think the list of the things that Jesus would point out for me would be long!
 - I mean, if this is what is required to be saved, then who can be saved?!?
- ii. **And that angst that you feel, is exactly what the disciples felt as they watched this interaction with Jesus.**
 - So, let's continue in our text because I want to show you how Jesus turned this into a profound teaching moment for us and for the His disciples.

V. MARK 10:23-27

a. Read Mark 10:23-25

- i. Jesus is affirming our angst here!
 - The requirements to enter the Kingdom of God, to be saved, are massive!
 1. The requirements are literally that there must be nothing in our life that we love or desire more than Jesus Himself.
 2. We must have no other gods before Him.
 - What chance do we have of making it?



1. About the same chance that a camel could fit itself through the eye of a sewing needle.
2. In other words, no chance.
3. It is impossible.

b. Read Mark 10:26-27

i. This is how we know Jesus is not preaching a gospel of works.

- If we are going to be saved, if we are going to be welcomed into the Kingdom of God, God must intervene solely on the basis of His grace...because if it were left to us...it would be impossible.

1. No one would be saved.

ii. So, this is the gospel equation that we have to see here.

- God is not saying...deal with all the false gods in your heart...and then you'll be saved.
- No, God is saying...I am going to save you. I am going to do what is impossible for you to do. And in doing so, I am going to break the power that all these false gods have over you and I am going to show you that only I can bring you the joy that you are looking for these false gods to give you.
 1. It's not....deal with your heart and then I'll accept you.
 2. It's I'll accept you and then show you how truly miserable all these false gods in your heart really are.

c. And so, let me just pause here. For those of you who might not be sure about what the true gospel of Jesus Christ is...



- i. I want you to know something about God...this is how good God is to us...everything God commands of us, he supplies for us.
 - Think about that. Everything he commands of us, he supplies for us.
- ii. God commands that we have perfect righteousness in order to be right with Him.
 - We can't supply that...but he can.
- iii. We are sinful. It's impossible for us to please God on our own.
 - And so, God sends His Son Jesus...and Jesus lives a life without sin...perfect righteousness.
 1. Jesus has what we need.
 - And Jesus, out of His love for us, switched with us.
 1. He took our sin and gave us His righteousness.
 2. He supplied what we needed!
 3. He willingly allowed Himself to be crucified on the cross so that God's anger toward our sin would be directed on Him.
 4. And he gave us his righteousness so God's delight in His life would be directed toward us.
 - And when Jesus rose from the dead, all of our sin against God, was dealt with, forgiven, done with...
 1. That's the gospel.
- iv. And for that to be applied to us, we are told we need to confess of our need of it...God I am a sinner and it is impossible for me to be perfect.



- And we need to trust that this is the only way we can be right with God...only through Jesus.
- And this morning, you can walk from death to life by confessing of your sin against God and casting yourself on Jesus.
 1. And if you want to pray with someone about that, our prayer ministers who will be up front after the sermon would be delighted to do that.

d. But here is the glorious thing that happens when God does in our hearts what is impossible for us to do in our hearts.

- i. He sets us free from the bondage of all the things that we find more precious than Him.
 - Remember, in the beginning I told you that when He has that place in our heart...that is where we find 100x more joy and freedom than anything else in this world.
 1. It's what Joe read for us earlier from Philippians...where Paul lists all of his accomplishments and all of the things of the world that he once saw as precious...and now that He has Christ, He literally considers them all rubbish in comparison.



e. See, before knowing Christ, we were enslaved to things of the world. Here's what that means...

i. The things of the world were your only option in your pursuit of joy and purpose.

- In our sin, we were separated from God.
 1. He could not be our source of joy and purpose.

ii. So, imagine being in a famine and your starving and malnourished.

- And I said, I am going to take you to a grocery store and you can get as much food as you want.
 1. It's a huge store and there is more food than you could ever imagine. You'll never be hungry again!
- And so, I take you to the store and this store is filled with all these packages of food.
 1. And these packages are in different shapes, sizes, colors, and brands.
 2. It seems that this store has a huge variety of food...
- And so, I fill my cart with all these packages, go home, and I realize that there is nothing in these packages except for white bread.
 1. In fact, the entire store has nothing but white bread in it.
 2. Now, white bread is comfort food. It will taste good going down. It will feel good to fill your belly.
 3. But, it does not give you the nutrients you need. You'll still be malnourished. You'll still be truly hungry.



4. But the problem is, this is the only option I have for food.
5. There is no other food available to me. I'm trapped. Malnourished. And trying to forget my hunger by feeding on what is not good for me.

iii. **Before knowing Christ, we were enslaved to the things of the world...**

- Our only options to try and find joy were things like money, and reputation, and relationships, and a career, or whatever else...
 1. What other option did we have?
- But Christ has done the impossible in us and has set us free from our bondage to the world and has now made available to us the joy that we were originally created to live with...
 1. It's like Christ is saying to us...let me introduce you to a place called Wegmans...
 2. Where there is fruits, vegetables, meats, fine wine and cheeses, all of the foods to nourish your body and feed your soul.

iv. **See, Christ has set us free from the prison of our joy being dependent on the world.**

- Did you hear that? [repeat]
- And he is leading us to where we will find 100x more joy than anything this world can offer us.



VI. MARK 10:28-31

a. And that number I am using (100x) is not an arbitrary number. It is in the text.

i. **Read Mark 10:28-31.**

b. Here is what Jesus is saying:

i. When you allow me to be what is most precious to you in this life...there is more joy available to you than you could ever imagine.

- There will still be persecutions.
 1. While we're still on this side of glory, we still live in a fallen world and will encounter tough circumstances.
 2. Jesus is not promising you more money or material prosperity.

ii. But Jesus is saying imagine a life where your circumstances and the things of this world have nothing to do with your joy.

- Like money...imagine where your money had nothing to do with your joy and your peace in this life.
 1. Whether you had a little or a lot.
 2. It was just a tool to be used to serve God...that's it.
- Or your reputation and what people think about you.
 1. Imagine if that had no effect on your joy and your contentment in this life.
- Or whatever else we identified earlier as the things that we find more precious to us than Jesus.
 1. Imagine if it had no power over you anymore.



- iii. This is the hundredfold joy that Jesus offers and the world cannot touch it.
 - Isaiah 57:20-21b says – *“But those who still reject me are like the restless sea, which is never still but continually churns up mud and dirt. ²¹ There is no peace for the wicked.”*
 1. Living a life without Jesus at the center is a recipe for restlessness.
 - And this is why I love what our text from this morning says about Jesus in v.21.
 1. **Read Mark 10:21**
 2. I love how the Scripture tells us that the motivation for Jesus saying what he said was love.
 3. Jesus knew that because this man valued his wealth more than anything in his life, it actually was a chokehold of anxiety and misery in his life.
 4. And it was blocking him for tasting true joy.

VII. CONCLUSION

a. Grace Hill, Jesus wants to be Lord and King over every single area of our life.

- i. And he promises a hundredfold joy if we submit everything in our life to his Lordship and rule.
 - And in God’s grace, he has done what needs to be done to save us and to set us free from our bondage.



- ii. And so, this Fall, as we continue in chapter three of our sermon series, I want to go on a journey with you in exploring what it looks like to take the things that are most precious to us, and give it to Christ, and let Him rule over it.

b. And so, starting next week, we're going to get real specific.

- 9/15 - Time & Plans
 - 9/22 - Work & Vocation
 - 9/29 - Family
 - 10/6 - Reputation
 - 10/13 - Sexuality & Romance
 - 10/20 - Money
- i. I hope you'll join us through the Fall as we wrestle through what this looks like.

c. But for this morning, this is what I want you to take away.

- i. God has done the impossible for you.
 - He did not wait for you to change your heart before saving you.
 - He has saved you and broken the chains that the things of this world have over your heart.
 - And now, he wants to begin to show you how he is so much better.
- ii. **Grace Hill, our God is so good.**
 - He is gracious. He is patient. And He is after our joy.

VIII. PRAY

