

Devotion Info

Seeds & Soils

DAY 1 Read Mark 10:17-21

As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked. "Only God is truly good. But to answer your question, you know the commandments: 'You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and mother.'" "Teacher," the man replied, "I've obeyed all these commandments since I was young." Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. "There is still one thing you haven't done," he told him. "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." NLT

This man says he has kept *all* the commandments since he was a boy!

- How does this prove he doesn't understand his own sin nature and the gospel message?

DAY 2 Read Mark 10:22-27

At this the man's face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!" This amazed them. But Jesus said again, "Dear children, it is very hard to enter the Kingdom of God. In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!" The disciples were astounded. "Then who in the world can be saved?" they asked. Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God." NLT

In this passage in Mark, Jesus is not conditioning salvation on obedience to the law. Instead, He is trying to show the rich young ruler that his own righteousness will never be good enough to earn his way into heaven.

- Why do you think people have such a hard time believing in Christ for salvation rather than their own efforts?

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DAY 3 Read Mark 10:28-31

Then Peter began to speak up. "We've given up everything to follow you," he said. "Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life. But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then." NLT

We sacrifice something so that Jesus can give us something better. For example, we might end up with less pride and more humility... or less apathy and more compassion.

- Has Jesus cut away certain traits in your life that helped you to be more like Him?

DAY 4 Read Hebrews 11:6

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. NLT

Many people think the reward mentioned here is Heaven itself, but rewards (notice that it's plural) are something earned for a job well-done. Since Heaven **can't** be earned, those rewards have to refer to something more once we get there.

- Why do you think most Christians tend *not* to strive hard for "heavenly rewards"?

DAY 5 Read 2 John 1:8

Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward. NLT

Believing in Christ makes us citizens in Heaven forever, but we'll have something more there based on how well we invest in it before we get there. This verse tells us to be diligent for the express purpose of receiving our full rewards.

- How might we change our attitude about rewards so that we live our lives in pursuit of God's future/greater rewards?