

## 赐给穷人的丰盛属灵财富——马可福音 10:28-34

### Spiritual Riches for the Poor—Mark 10:28-34

#### *Introduction and Outline*

- Scripture reading: Mark 10:17-34; Philippians 3:7-11.  
Mark 10:28-34 (NASB 1995)  
28 Peter began to say to Him, “Behold, we have left everything and followed You.” 29 Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake, 30 but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last, first.” 32 They were on the road going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking on ahead of them; and they were amazed, and those who followed were fearful. And again He took the twelve aside and began to tell them what was going to happen to Him, 33 saying, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles. 34 They will mock Him and spit on Him, and scourge Him and kill Him, and three days later He will rise again.”
- We say we will leave everything to follow Jesus, but in reality, how many things that should be left are not left? Many people say they will stop watching TV or playing video games and start reading the Bible more and serving more, but what is the result?
- Maybe it’s time for you to renew your determination to leave everything to follow Jesus; maybe you’ve forgotten what rich and wonderful blessings you’ll have by following Jesus; maybe you need to be reminded that the price of following Jesus is absolutely worth paying! Today’s Scripture will remind us of just that.
- A key reason why the rich young ruler ended up a failed seeker is that he had a completely wrong view of wealth. He did not know what true riches were, and his heart was hopelessly bound by worldly riches that have no eternal value (vv. 21-22). Jesus used his example to teach his disciples: Verses 23-27 are the poverty of the rich; verses 28-31 are the riches of the poor.
- Outline:  
Title: Spiritual Riches for the Poor (vv. 28-34)
  1. Question by the Poor (v.28)
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  3. Riches for the Poor (v.30)
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  5. Example of the Poor (vv. 32-34)

#### **Question by the Poor (v.28)**

- “Behold, we have left everything and followed You.”: What the rich young ruler cannot leave behind, we have completely left behind! How’s that? We’re doing pretty well, right?

【Attitude】 There's something good in these words. It shows the disciples already had a truly saved life. However, it also has something very bad, a prideful and boasting attitude. Peter did not say, "Look, we have left everything and followed you. This is the power of God. God has changed us. To God be the glory!" Rather, "Look! *We* have left everything and followed you", so, "what then will there be for us?" (Matthew 19:27)

【Reflection】 You have also asked this question in your mind. Look at all the sacrifices I've made for God, what's there for me to get? After sacrificing all this time, energy, and resource, what reward will I get? Is it really worth it?

【Explanation】 Because of the mixed mentality behind Peter's words, Jesus' answer was also twofold: on the one hand, Jesus unreservedly affirmed the rich reward that the disciples would receive; on the other hand, Jesus also gave a warning for their attitude, that "the first will be last, and the last will be first."

## **Motivation of the Poor (v.29)**

- "left house .....": Seven items on the list; and since seven is a perfect number, these items are simply examples of leaving everything behind. The key to know if you've left everything is not what you have left, but what you have not left. The key is to have the heart and mind that has left everything behind, including physical life.
- "for My sake and for the gospel's sake": The key here is the purpose or motivation for leaving everything. If it is for the wrong reasons, you won't get the riches described below even if you give up your life. But if it is for the sake of Jesus and the gospel, that is, if you truly know how precious Jesus and the gospel is, then you will know what it means for you to leave everything, and exactly what is required of you.

**Mark 8:35** "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life **for My sake and the gospel's** will save it."

【Dual Motivation】 Jesus is a living person, a God-man with a real personal relationship with us; while the gospel is the good news about Jesus, about what he did, that he died for our sins and rose again to justify us. One person, one message, the two are inseparably linked and equally important. If Jesus were not a living person, the gospel message would mean nothing to us; but if our knowledge of Jesus is different from the gospel message, then we do not really know Jesus. So both Jesus and the gospel, together, constitute our motivation for leaving everything behind.

【Application】 Why are we willing to leave everything behind? Isn't it because Jesus and the gospel are most precious to us? Why do our co-workers get up early in the morning and work late at night, giving up their personal leisure time to serve the church on top of their busy life? Because they see Jesus and the gospel as most precious! Such sacrifice is absolutely worth it.

【Principle】 The key to "leaving" is the leaving of the heart. It's to stop thinking in terms of yourself or everything you own. You're no longer a separate entity, but you belong to Jesus, and your life is one with Jesus and His people, with whom you gladly share everything in the abundant grace of God. Before leaving everything, you thought God and others existed for your sake; after leaving everything,

you know the only purpose of your existence is to use everything to glorify God and benefit others. The Bible says we even eat and sleep to glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31), and so if a meal is eaten purely for our own gratification, we have not left everything behind!

## **Riches for the Poor (v.30)**

- "but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, ..... and in the age to come, eternal life." A pastor said: "Where is the saint who will dare to say in the face of these glorious promises, that there is no encouragement to serve Christ? Where is the man or woman whose hands are beginning to hang down, and whose knees are beginning to faint in the Christian race? Let all such ponder this passage, and take fresh courage. "

【Q&A】 What is it that we'll receive a hundred times in this life? Look closely and you'll see almost everything that's left in the previous verse is received back, with one exception: the Father. That's because Jesus is talking about spiritual blessings here, and there is only one spiritual Father, God. (Matthew 23:9) Therefore, what Christians gain a hundredfold in this life is their spiritual relationship with each other and all the resources they share with each other.

【Key Point】 Where is this spiritual family relationship realized?

**1 Timothy 3:15** "...this is the church of the living God"

**Ephesians 2:19** "So you are no longer strangers and aliens, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God."

【Application】 In today's world, there're many who take their homes for hotels, and they go home just for a place to sleep; in today's churches, there're also many who take churches for theaters, and they go to church just to watch a show. They greet each other briefly like audiences watching the same show, but there is no mutual care or fellowship that family members should have. Such people cannot appreciate how precious Jesus' promise here is. The more they sacrifice for the Lord, the more they will complain, because they do not know how to enjoy the sweetness of God's grace in the relationship with one another in God's family. On the other hand, if you do taste the sweetness of this family relationship, there'll be a constant outflow of joyful worship and service from your heart.

【Application】 Family relationship necessarily entails sharing of life and all kinds of resources with one another as we steward our God-given resources for the common goal. This is why the riches Jesus promises to Christians for this life not only includes spiritual relationships such as brothers and sisters, but also material resources such as houses and fields, because these are concrete ways of believers sharing life as family members. (cf. Acts 2:44-45)

【Clarification】 Not that we can get a lot of private property. We no longer have any private property, for we have left it all for the Lord. So what now do we live on? Simple: public property. Public property is not distributed equally, but according to everyone's needs, so that together we can give more glory to God.

**【Key Point】** The prerequisite for receiving a hundredfold is that you truly leave everything for the Lord so that you truly do not take anything as your own private property. Because you know Jesus and His gospel, that He humbled himself to the end as a sacrifice for you, so you are willing to humble yourself to the end and give up everything for Him, using all that you have to serve Him and His people.

“and shall be persecuted”: Why not “yet shall be persecuted”? Why not a contrast but a continuation? Because persecution is also part of the riches. Jesus suffered all persecution in his life, and so Christians get to experience Jesus’ life through persecution. This is of great spiritual value to the Christian. (cf. Colossians 1:24; 1 Peter 4:13-14)

### **Warning to the Poor (v.31)**

- “many who are first will be last, and the last, first”: What this means in context is: Beware of your attitude! Yes, the reward is great; but if all you think is your own reward, beware! There are many reasonable interpretations for this proverb, but whichever interpretation you take, there is a rebuke and warning to the disciples who just want to get their reward. Be content with being last. Do not think too much of yourself. Only, serve others wholeheartedly.

### **Example of the Poor (vv. 32-34)**

- “began to tell them what was going to happen to Him...”: This is the third time Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus would teach them with His own life example what it means to leave everything and follow Him.
- “they were amazed, and those who followed were fearful”: Why was it so hard for the disciples to see that Jesus was going to die? Because the messiah they had always been taught by the Pharisees was an idol, not the real Messiah.

### **Summary**

Is it worth it? Is it worth leaving everything to follow Jesus? Jim Elliot, a missionary who gave his life for Jesus, said: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."