



SERIES: November – December – Walking with Jesus

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Thursday, 12/23/2021

Scripture: Mark 10:17-22

TITLE: Worth It All

Today there are over 4000 recognized religious world views. These consist of the 5 major religions plus subsets, spin-offs, and developing world views. Today roughly 6 billion people today are considered following one of the major five. Well, you may be wondering, “So what?”

What this tells me is that people are concerned with eternity and what they can do to achieve it. Well, what did Jesus have to say about eternity? How can a person inherit eternal life? The answer might surprise you. Let’s turn to Mark 10:17-22.

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked him. “No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not bear false witness; do not defraud; honor your father and mother.”

He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these from my youth.”

Looking at him, Jesus loved him and said to him, “You lack one thing: Go, sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” But he was dismayed by this demand, and he went away grieving, because he had many possessions.

This teaching is troubling, possibly confusing, and sad. The man asks what he must do to inherit eternal life. He is thinking the game of religion is the way to please God. It’s all about what he can do. So Jesus says, in essence, “Why do you call me good? Do you recognize that I am God?”

And then He moves into answering the man’s questions. Jesus’ answer seems to play right into his hands. Jesus says, “Follow God’s perfect law. Be holy for God is holy.” And the man says, “I’ve checked those boxes. What’s next?” Jesus knows the barrier to this man’s heart. It’s his wealth. So Jesus says, “sell all your possessions and follow me.” The man was saddened, shocked, and defeated, so he walked away.

Jesus’ message of salvation was different than many presentations today. It wasn’t “Do you want your best life now? Ask Jesus into your heart.” Instead it was a message of surrender and transformation.

Jesus could have said, “come back here, you silly goose. Just believe and don’t worry about following me. Say the prayer and you’re in.” Jesus’ offer of salvation is thankfully powerful enough to save our souls and change our lives.

Does God ask us to give up our possessions, our money, our families, and our dreams to be His children? No. He asks us to turn from our sins and turn to Christ fully. We must be willing to give it all up when and if he calls. Why? Because Jesus is worth it all. Money wasn’t the real issue with this young man. His heart was the problem. He was fixed on salvation on his terms. He wanted a ticket to heaven but not a new life in Christ.

So here’s my challenge for you today: surrender. Chances are, you’re holding onto something that is preventing you from following Christ fully. It could be a child, a parent, a friend, a job, a hobby, a home, or something else. You know what it is. As hard as it will be, surrender it to Jesus. He may never ask you to give it up. But as long as it takes precedence, Jesus cannot.

So surrender your life to Christ because He is worth it all.