

Faith Is Possible with God

International Bible Lesson

Mark 10:17-31

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“Jesus looked at him and loved him. ‘One thing you lack,’ he said. ‘Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me’” (Mark 10:21).

When Jesus talked with the wealthy young man who wanted to know what he could do to inherit eternal life, they determined that he had not harmed anyone. On the other hand, it appeared as though he had not done much to help others either. Jesus did not ask him if he loved the LORD his God with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might (see Deuteronomy 6:5). Rather, Jesus gave him the opportunity to discover this lack of love for himself by telling him to sell everything he possessed and give to the poor. When the rich young man heard this, he became sad because of his great possessions. He had to choose between embracing God and serving God supremely because he loved God or clinging to his possessions because he loved them more than everything else. He had to choose between entrusting his life and future to Jesus by following Him and believing Jesus would meet all of his needs – including giving him eternal life – or entrusting his life and future to the money and possessions he had hoarded. Jesus loved him knowing how hard it would be for this rich young man to give up his earthly security and entrust his eternal security to Jesus. To inherit eternal life, he must enter into God’s family by following Jesus. He would not do that without help from God. We do not know if he ever did what Jesus said, but “all things are possible with God” (Mark 10:27).

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Thinking Further

1. What did the rich young man want to inherit after he died? What did Jesus say he would need to do?
2. What might his refusal to do what Jesus said have indicated?
3. What can someone do which indicates they have entered the kingdom of God?
4. What had Peter and the other disciples left behind to follow Jesus?
5. What did Jesus say His followers would receive?