

COME ON DOWN**Core Competency***Stewardship*

I Tim 6:17-19

Core Competencies**Core Beliefs**

- Trinity
- Salvation by Grace
- Authority of Bible
- Personal God
- Identity in Christ
- Church
- Humanity
- Compassion
- Eternity
- **Stewardship**

Core Practices

- Worship Prayer
- Bible Study
- Single-Mindedness
- Biblical Community
- Spiritual Gifts
- Giving Away My Time
- Giving Away My Money
- Giving Away My Faith
- Giving Away My Life

Core Virtues

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness/Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control
- Hope
- Humility

Dear Fellow Good Stewards,

Last week we ended our "It's Your Move Series." We have had wonderful responses from people for whom God has blessed with movement in their lives. Since you are using this study guide, you are obviously allowing God an opportunity to move you. As we prepare for the next series, "When the Price is Right," you will notice we enter a series about **stewardship**. As you know, God wants us to be good stewards of our life, of the gifts and passions He has given us, of our time, and of our resources.

Being good stewards of our lives is all about putting ourselves:

- In places where we will be **inspired** to worship our Creator
- In opportunities for **instruction** on His Word
- In environments which allow us to become **involved** with others in our community
- In routines which provide balance and **introspection**

While the process may not be easy and at times uncomfortable, I'm confident that God will continue to transform our lives to be fully devoted followers of Jesus.

The verses that support our Core Competency is **I Timothy 6:17-19**. Since we are sticking with the Core Competencies for the series, try memorizing the passage as you meditate on the Word.

¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Continue to move with you as we steward our lives for God.

*Junno***Engaging Our Minds & Hearts****Day 1****Pray first**

Jesus said in Matthew 16:17 that truth is revealed to us by God, and in John 14:26 that the Holy Spirit will teach us all things, and bring to our minds those things that God has revealed to us through His Son. So each day, before you open your Bible, go to God in prayer and ask for His Holy Spirit to reveal the truths that are contained in His Word and to apply them to your heart and life.

This week's scripture reference is **Mark 10:17-31**. Today read this passage in several different versions. If you have internet capabilities, you can go to www.biblegateway.com and access a variety of versions. You might try *The Message* for a very current vernacular, *The New King James* for an easy to understand and accurate translation and/or *The Amplified version* for a very detailed account.

Make a list of all the people involved in this interchange and everything you can learn about each of them from the passage. Be sure to include their various emotions.

Day 2

Pray first!

The first conversation in this passage takes place between Jesus and a man with a question.

- How does he refer to Jesus?
- What does he want?
- How does he want to get it?
- What does he assume is his responsibility?

In verse 19 Jesus indicates the man is familiar with the commandments. He then lists six commandments. Do you think the other four “slipped His mind”? Or might there be a reason He fails to mention them?

Read **Exodus 20:1-17** and note which of the commandments Jesus fails to include in His exchange with the man.

Of the four commands that Jesus fails to cite, what do they have in common?

Of the six commands to which He refers, what do they have in common?

What is the man’s response to the six commands to which Jesus refers?

Next Jesus makes a statement and tells the man what he needs to do. List these below.

Day 3

Pray first!

Jesus now turns his attention to the disciples and uses the previous encounter as a “teachable moment.” What statement does Jesus make?

What is the disciples’ initial response to this teaching?

Does Jesus “soften” the teaching in His next statement and further illustration of this teaching?

Does this seem to clear up the disciples’ thinking? Now what is their response?

Jesus has posed a seemingly insurmountable obstacle. What does He now offer as the solution?

Read **Matthew 6:24**. What correlation do you see between this verse, the solution offered by Jesus in **Mark 10:27**, the four commandments that Jesus did not refer to in **Mark 10:19**, and the young man’s unwillingness to obediently respond to Jesus?

Day 4

Pray first!

The young man was disheartened and went away sorrowful. The disciples were first amazed, then exceedingly astonished and confused. And now in verse 28, Peter appears to be somewhat defensive. What does he say?

Jesus responds with a promise in verses 29-30. What is it?

Within the promise, do you see something that doesn’t seem to fit? What is it? Why do you think Jesus included this?

Day 5

Pray first!

Read through **Mark 10:17-31** once again. From all outward appearances, this young man could be any one of us. He came willingly and excitedly to Jesus, bowing at His feet and seeking His direction for his life. He was outwardly a good man with a good reputation. And when Jesus looked at him and spoke to him, it was from a heart of love and a desire to bless. So far, so good. But the story does not end well. His heart was revealed to be more devoted to his earthly possessions than to an eternal relationship with God. There was a limit to his obedience, and the result was that his encounter with Jesus ended in sorrow.

The Core Competency for our current series is **Stewardship**, and our Creed reads, **“I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.”** Today as you meditate on the truths that God has shown you this week, and as you prepare to worship and encounter God this Sunday, spend time asking Him to reveal if there are things that you possess that have more of your heart than He does. Ask Him to fill you with a heart ready to respond in obedience so that all of your encounters with Him will result in blessings and life.

Engage the Context

Mark 10:17-31

D. A. Carson rightly observes, “Nowhere is the cost of God’s kingdom brought out more clearly than in the story of this rich man.”¹

17As Jesus started on His way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before Him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

This, along with the parallel account (Luke 18:18) is the only time in the NT where we find the term **good teacher**. In First Century Palestine, there would have been many teachers of religious law or rabbis. Each rabbi taught their rules and regulations that a faithful Jew must abide by in order **to inherit eternal life**. So we must understand that he was asking an honest question of a rabbi that he truly respected.

18“Why do you call Me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.

At first glance, it may seem as though Jesus is denying His own deity, or saying that He is not God. In actual fact, He is affirming that He is God! Jesus liked to answer questions with questions. Jesus begins His response to the rich young ruler by making sure he realizes that his authority truly does come from God.

19You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.’²⁰“Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

Jesus continues by quoting the last six of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:12-16). This is interesting because the first four deal with the individual’s relationship with God. These six have to do with the individual’s relationship with other people in the community. It appears that Jesus is bringing out the fact that this person is rich in love towards people but not necessarily towards God.

¹ Carson, D. A. (1994). *New Bible commentary : 21st century edition*. Rev. ed. of: The new Bible commentary. 3rd ed. / edited by D. Guthrie, J.A. Motyer. 1970. (4th ed.) (Mk 10:17). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill., USA: Inter-Varsity Press.

Feedback

What is helpful?
What could be better?
What is missing?
Is it helping you be more prepared for Sunday?

Send your feedback to
engage@gccaz.org

²¹Jesus 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.” ²²At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Mark is sure to record that Jesus **loved him**. Jesus was not condemning the man, but because He loved him, He had to confront him with the truth. Jesus’ love for the man did not cause Jesus to go soft on him, rather it bolstered His desire to call him to uncompromised discipleship.

Mark is the shortest gospel because, among other reasons, he often fails to write in much detail. However, here we have a rather colorful description as **the man’s face fell** and **he went away sad**. The harsh realization hit him all at once as he realized his attempts to keep the Law were insufficient. Jesus’ call to discipleship required absolute submission to God and the man was not ready to make such a sacrifice. That is the call to “**follow Me**.” The disciples should have thought back to Jesus’ words two chapters earlier to “deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me.” (8:34).

²³Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴The disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

After the man walks away, Jesus turns to the disciples and takes advantage of a teaching moment. He uses a common proverb that it is **easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle**. This proverb is still used today in the Arab world, for example, “hypocrites go into paradise as easily as a camel goes through a needle-eye.” It is important in interpretation of this verse to realize that Jesus is using a common proverb. He is using a literary device known as a hyperbole to highlight the dangers of wealth. While verse 25 has often been used as a proof text that it is a sin to be rich, the following verses make it clear that Jesus is warning against the temptations of riches rather than declaring it a sin to be well off.

²⁶The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?” ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

Lane’s commentary on these two verses is worth an extensive quote, “The disciples were more bewildered than before. They understood that the manner in which Jesus spoke of the rich, in fact, blocks the way for *anyone* to achieve entrance into the Kingdom, and they were frightened by this implication. Their anxious question is eschatological in nature: who will be found in the Kingdom? Jesus’ response in verse 27 provides the key to the sober declarations in the immediate context and to the gospel He proclaimed. Salvation is completely beyond the sphere of human possibilities; every attempt to enter the Kingdom on the basis of achievement or merit is futile.”²

²⁸Peter said to Him, “We have left everything to follow you!” ²⁹“I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields – and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Jesus ends this section by comforting His disciples with the fact that they would find themselves one day in the Kingdom. Jesus assures them that the sacrifices they had already made (**leaving family**) and would make in the weeks and years to come (**persecutions**) would be multiplied a **hundred times** in the Kingdom.

² Lane, William L. *The New International Commentary on the New Testament: Commentary on the Gospel of Mark*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974. (pg. 370)