

**Sermon Series: LIFE IN HIS NAME**

**Sermon Title: What Do I Lack?**

**Text: Mark 10:17-22**

**Discussion Questions:**

*Pick and choose the questions that might work for you and your class.*

- Describe a situation or moment you have had in your life that you expected one thing but were disappointed by its outcome.
- Be honest: What is something that you have (possessions, relationships, talents, skills, etc...) that you feel you couldn't live without? Why?
- How would you respond if Jesus asked you to sell everything and give it all to the poor? Why?
- What stood out to you from the sermon and why?
- What would be a modern-day retelling of this story sound like? What would be a 21<sup>st</sup> century American version of this story?
- *Optional Activity:* Have your class act out the passage, Mark 10:17-22. Find someone to be the narrator, someone to be Jesus, someone to be the young man, and some people to play disciples; and act out the passage.

**Examination Questions:**

Read **Mark 10:13-16**.

- Why would the disciples want to keep the children away from Jesus?
- How did Jesus respond to this?
- What does it mean "to receive the kingdom of God like a little child"?
- Why is it so hard to view ourselves as little children (helpless, needy, and lost)?
- What can we do to grow in that understanding?

Read **Mark 10:17-22**.

- How does Scripture describe the man who approaches Jesus? Note Mark 10:17, Matthew 19:22, and Luke 18:18.
- What are your initial thoughts on this man on what we know about him and how he approaches Jesus?
- What does the young man mean by "eternal life"?
- What is the significance of the discussion of what is "good"? Why does the young man call Jesus good in the first place? What is Jesus trying to say in his response?
- Is there a significance to the specific commands Jesus mentions and the ones he leaves out? If so, what is it?
- What are your thoughts on the passage saying that Jesus loved the man? What does that say about Jesus? What does that say about the young man? What does that say about us?
- Why does Jesus tell him to sell everything and give to the poor in order to follow him? Is this a universal requirement for all disciples? Why or why not?

- By choosing his wealth over a loving relationship with Jesus, what was the young man gaining? What was he forfeiting?

Read **Mark 10:23-28**.

- Why is it so hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven?
- What does the disciples' shock reveal about them?
- On what basis is it possible for anyone to receive the kingdom?
- How does that make you feel that God and God alone is the only one that can save? Why?
- How does truly understanding this help you in your relationship with Jesus?

Read **Mark 10:29-31**.

- According to this passage, what might you lose by following Christ?
- What will you gain by following Christ?
- Which carries the greatest sacrifice and why?
- How does knowing these things help us to follow Christ and to persevere in our relationship with Him?

### **Application:**

At the end of class, take some individual time for some silent reflection (10 minutes) on the following questions:

1. Be honest: how do you view yourself in your relationship with God? Do you view yourself like a child (helpless, needy, and lost)? Or as someone who is self-sufficient, independent, and good? Ask Jesus to help you understand who you really are and to understand your need for Him?
2. God sees into each of our hearts and knows very well “the one thing still lacking.” What might that be for you. We all have our own idols that sneak their way in between us and God. What personal idols do you serve - knowingly or unknowingly? Success? Status? Security? Fear? Sports? Wealth? Popularity? Etc. Take some time and ask Jesus to reveal any personal idols that you might have. If he reveals something to you, ask Jesus to give you the power to remove it in order to put Him first in your life.

Close by praying these words out of Psalm 16 together:

*I said to the Lord, “You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.” The sorrows of those will increase who run after others gods. Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices, my body is secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave. You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Amen*