**Mark 10: The Rich Young Man; Christian Renunciation**

**Mark 10:1-12; The Indissolubility of Marriage**

* The Pharisees were not coming to Jesus to have a discussion but to test him. They wanted to trip Him up.
* They believed that Jesus did not agree that Mosaic law allowed a man to divorce his with a “bill of divorce”.
* In asking Jesus if it is lawful for a man to divorce his wife, they were hoping Jesus would contradict Mosaic law so that they could accuse him of profaning Mosaic law.
* Jesus turns the tables on them in asking, ***“What did Moses command you?”***
* The Pharisees respond that Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce.
* Jesus explains that Moses allowed divorce due to the hardness of heart of the people, but it was not what God intended from the beginning.

***“But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female. For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother [and be joined to his wife], and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate.”***

* The Pharisees wanted to entrap Jesus in contradicting Mosaic law to accuse Him of profaning Mosaic law. Jesus does contradict Mosaic law. He quotes God’s own words in Genesis 2.

**Mark 10:13-16; Blessing of the Children**

* People were bringing their children to Jesus that he might touch them. The apostles were intolerant and impatient with the people bringing their children to Jesus.
* They regarded this as a nuisance and waste of Jesus’ time. In their mind, Jesus had more important things to do.
* The scripture tells us that Jesus was angry with the apostles and rebuked them.

***“Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.”***

* Jesus stresses that a Christian must become like a child to enter the Kingdom of God.
* To be little you must believe as children believe:
1. To love as children, love.
2. To abandon yourself as children, do.
3. To pray as children, pray.

**Mark10:17-31; The Rich Young Man**

***“Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”***

* When Jesus said to the man, ***“Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone”***, Jesus is not denying His divinity.
* In Judaism rhetorical questions and riddles where used as a teaching method.
* In this statement, Jesus wants to show the depth of the young man’s words. Jesus is good not because He is a good man but because He is God.
* Jesus immediately lists all the commandments: “do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness do not defraud, honor your father and mother.”
* It is clear in Jesus’ response that de did not come to abolish the law, but he came to fulfill the law.
* The commandments are the very core of the law and keeping them is necessary for attaining eternal life.

***“You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to [the] poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”***

* This scripture is often used to challenge the divinity of Jesus, but it is in this very scripture that Jesus reveals His divinity.
* Jesus looks upon the rich young man and knows what is in his heart. Looking upon the man He can identify the one area of his life where he is lacking.
* Jesus can do this because he is divine. A man would not be able to look upon a stranger and know in what area he is lacking.
* When Jesus told the man to sell his possessions, give to the poor and follow Him, the rich young man went away very sorrowful. He had many possessions and was overly attached to his possessions.

***It is easier for a camel to pass through [the] eye of [a] needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”***

* Having wealth and material possessions does not necessarily lead to damnation.
* They are resources God has made available to people for their development.
* There is no harm in material possessions when they are used in service to God in building up the Kingdom of God.
* It is important to note that the excessive attachment to material possessions not only seduces the rich but those who are consumed in acquiring them.

**Mark 10:35-45; Ambition of James and John**

***“Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left.”***

* Jesus’ mission on earth was to be a priest, prophet, and king. Jesus’ whole life was one of service. He was not a king that was born in a palace where people waited on him but was a servant king.
* Worldly kings seek glory and prestige but to be a Christian means to live a life of service to others.

***“You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?”***

* When we ask for something in prayer, we should be ready to accept God’s will even if it does not coincide with our own.
* Jesus knows what is suitable for us. Often, we ask for things that we are not ready for or that will be harmful to us.
* The other apostles were indignant of James and John’s request of Jesus.
* Jesus called the apostles to him and explained that the rulers lord it over those whom they have authority over.
* Whoever would be first must be a slave to all. No room for pride only humility.

**Mark 10:46-52; The Blind Bartimaeus**

* As Jesus is leaving Jericho with the apostles and a multitude. There was a lot of noise. Bartimaeus asked what was going on and was told that it was Jesus of Nazareth.
* Bartimaeus began to cry out for Jesus’ attention calling out***, “Jesus, son of David, have pity on me.”***
* Jesus stopped and asked for Bartimaeus to come to him.

***” So they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take courage; get up, he is calling you.”***

* These are the words spoken to Bartimaeus. Bartimaeus response was immediate, ***“He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus.”***
* The words, ***“Take courage; get up, he is calling you”***, are spoken to each one of us in prayer. Will we respond like Bartimaeus?
* When Bartimaeus was crying out to Jesus, he identifies Him as the “son of David”. In using this title, “son of David”, Bartimaeus is expressing his faith that Jesus is the Messiah.
* Jesus asks, ***“What do you want me to do for you?”*** Bartimaeus responds, ***“Master, I want to see.”***
* ***“Go your way; your faith has saved you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.***
* Bartimaeus is a model of prayer. Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus for he had faith that Jesus was the Messiah and would be able to heal with him.
* When Bartimaeus initially cries out to Jesus, he is rebuked by the people around him and is told to be quiet. In the face of opposition Bartimaeus persists in his prayer to Jesus.
* When Bartimaeus is told, ***“Take courage; get up, he is calling you.”*** Bartimaeus takes immediate action. He throws of his mantle, springs up and went to Jesus.
* When Jesus asks him, ***“What do you want me to do for you?”,*** Bartimaeus responds in faith, ***“Let me receive my sight.”***
* Bartimaeus’ sight is restored. The scripture reveals the Bartimaeus follows Jesus on his way. Bartimaeus is a model of Christian prayer.

The Navarre Bible; The Gospel of St. Mark; Scepter Publishers; New York; 1986

William J. Murphy