

Death To Selfie

Week 2: “Death To Our Wealth Affair”

Weekly Summary: Jesus’ command shocks us as much now as it shocked his first followers back then. Sell everything you have. Give to the poor. It is hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of God. But Jesus knew exactly what the rich young man needed—to die to his idols. Jesus confronts our idolatrous loves too, but promises not only to save us from our sins, but to reward all those who die to the riches of this world.

◆ Mark 10:17-18 - As 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?” 18 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.

❖ Delusion #1: “Good” is measured on a sliding scale.

❖ Corollary to D#1: Worldly success and wealth are a reward for being good.

◆ Mark 10:19-20 - You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’” 20 “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

❖ Delusion #2: Through self-improvement I can earn God’s favor.

◆ Mark 10:21-22 - 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.” 22 At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

- ❖ Delusion #3: I can love, pursue, and trust both **God** and **money** (as long as God is first).

- ◆ Mark 10:23-25 - Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!” 24 The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

- ❖ Delusion #4: **Money** can give me all I need, an identity and purpose.

- ◆ Mark 10:26-27 - The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?” 27 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

- ❖ Truth #1: “Good” is **absolute** – and **Jesus** is good.

- ❖ Truth #2: Through Jesus God freely **gives** me his favor and the status “**good.**”

- ◆ Mark 10:28-31 - Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!” 29 “Truly I tell you,” 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 30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

- ❖ Truth #3: I will love, pursue and trust **God** alone.

- ❖ Truth #4: Only **God** can give me all I need, an eternal identity and real purpose.

TAKE AWAY: **God** alone rightly belongs in the **center** of our hearts and lives. Losing everything but gaining God is to lose nothing and gain everything.

Points to Ponder

(Best used with your Life Group, family, or Christian friends.)

1. Read and discuss the first delusion. Name times or recall situations in your life when you have believed that lie.
2. Read and discuss the first truth. How would your life look different if you aligned it to that truth? (How would you think differently? How would you feel? How would you behave?)
3. Repeat exercises 1 and 2 with each delusion and its associated truth.
4. Reread the “take away” in the notes above. This is easy to understand and affirm. Yet we struggle to live it. Why is it so hard?
5. Reread Mark 10:27 - “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God!” How does the context shape our understanding of this passage? Meditate on the assurance and implications of this passage.

Homework For Next Week: Mark 11:27-33

“If we look to some created thing to give us the meaning, hope, and happiness that only God himself can give, it will eventually fail to deliver and break our hearts.”

~ Timothy Keller, Counterfeit Gods