Grace and Peace Beloved Saints of the Lord,

This past Lord’s Day we had the blessed privilege to go over the gospel of Mark chapter 10 verses 13-31. Here we see the accounts of our Lord Jesus Christ’s encounter with children, a rich young ruler, and His disciples. What is most fascinating and important to note beloved brothers and sisters, is that all three of these encounters appear in all three of the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). By each gospel writer recording all these encounters in their accounts of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, (through the super-intention of the Holy Spirit of Truth (2 Peter 1:20-21)), it stresses the significance of us needing to understand what our Lord is trying to say. The central point in all three accounts is this; that one must have childlike trust in the Son of God Alone for Salvation (Mark 10:15). What our Lord demands of one is no mere profession of faith, but to truly have the trust and dependency like a child upon Him (God the Son) to enter into His kingdom. Jesus’ encounter with the rich young ruler is a clear example of someone not receiving the kingdom of God like a child. Consider this brethren, the rich young ruler had all the right things going on for him. He was eager, he was sincere, he came to the right person, and he even had the right question. But, as far as we can tell, he did not receive the kingdom. Why? Because he did not trust in God Alone for salvation. He trusted in himself and did not count the cost of what it is to become a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 9:23; 14:25-33). And brothers and sisters, we must be not miss the point of this lesson. Our Lord is not looking for people whom the world deems worthy. No, our God is not a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11). He saves those whom He has chosen by His Sovereign grace (Ephesians 2:8-10). Salvation is not only not easy (in fact it is hard; see Mark 10:23-24), but it is downright impossible without the Sovereign intervention of God (Mark 10:27). We must humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God so that He may exalt us at the proper time (1 Peter 5:6) …

Beloved children of the Lord (John 1:11-13), as I was hearing the Scripture reading for this past Lord’s day, I couldn’t help but realize that when Pastor Martin read 1 Timothy 6:17-19, it perfectly summarized the lesson that we are to learn from the gospel of Mark. It says this:

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.” (NASB)

Beloved children, the necessity of having and preaching childlike faith in God the Son is so critical. This lesson was surely learned by our Lord’s chosen disciples. The Apostle John not only learned this lesson well (1 John 2:1; 12; 18; 28; 3:2; 7; 10; 18; 5:2; 21), but even the Apostle Paul (1 Timothy 6:17-19). These accounts must have been well-known in their day as they were going out and proclaiming the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous Light (1 Peter 2:9-10).

And that is why blessed children that we need to heed to the message of our Lord. We ***must*** receive the kingdom of God like a child and, by His Sovereign Grace Alone, enter it so that we may proclaim it to others so that they may be saved as well.

Yours for His Sovereign Glory Alone,

-Joshua Pérez

2 Peter 3:18

©Joshua Pérez

God-Centered: Transformed and Reformed Ministries