

The Ark

December 12, 2018

Stewardship:

Mark 10:17-22 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"

- He recognized Jesus as a "Good Teacher" and took a position of respect by kneeling before him
- He asked a very good question "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁸ So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.

¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' "

- Since this young man was a Jew, Jesus answered him according to the "Law", not grace for Jesus had not yet been crucified.

²⁰ And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth."

- The young man had confidence in his "righteousness" and expected Jesus to commend him.

²¹ Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

- Jesus looked at him
- Jesus loved him
- Jesus challenged him (*Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and rust do not destroy, and where*

thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.)

- Jesus offered him an opportunity to actually become a disciple.

²² But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

- Having great possessions was not this man's problem
- Lack of faith in a God who always rewards the generous giver was his problem.
- Failure to see the value of obedience was his problem

So what can we learn?

The temptation in our world is to think that abundance is found in possessing life's benefits, when actually it is discovered in stewarding life's blessings.

Three personal priorities to develop:

1. **Think of yourself as the manager of a trust.** God has entrusted you with time, money, material things and great opportunities. Maximize the investment of all God has put into your hands.
2. **Think of each day as an opportunity for service and stewardship.** *Ephesians 5:16 cautions us to "make the most of every opportunity because the days are evil."* This means to live every day expressly for God's glory and purpose.
3. **Think of money as a means to an end, not the end itself.** Having money is not wrong, but **loving** money can open the door to a wrong attitude toward God and those around us.

Don't be like this foolish young man who missed the opportunity of a lifetime because he was afraid to release what he had into God's hands.

LESSON – IDENTITY IN CHRIST

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new

What does it mean to be “In Christ”?

(1) To be “In Christ” means to be united to Christ. Jesus prayed in **John 17:21** *That they all may be one, as You Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.*

(2) To be “In Christ” means to partake of the life of Christ. **(Colossians 2:9-10 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)** *For in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature].¹⁰ And you are in Him, made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and reach full spiritual stature]. And He is the Head of all rule and authority [of every angelic principality and power].*

(3) To be “In Christ” means to have His Spirit dwelling within us. Our human bodies actually become the temple of God when we receive Christ as our Savior. **(1 Corinthians 6:19-20:** *Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own,^o you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.*

Galatians 5:16 NIV *So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature).*

You were placed “In Christ” when you received Jesus Christ as your Savior.

New Creation means that you now actually have the Holy Spirit living in you and available to guide you into a full and complete life.

Our Problem is that we don’t know who we are

We see ourselves as “we were” not as a “New Creation”

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NIV *Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men^[a]¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.¹¹ **And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.***

“But” is a conjunction. *Grammatically speaking*, a “Conjunction” is a word used to connect clauses or sentences or to coordinate words in the same clause. Verse 11.. *“And that is what some of you were...BUT you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God!”*

- Are you living **before** the “conjunction” or after it?
- Do you still see yourself as you were before Christ?
- OR...Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to lead you into your new identity and power?

Your Self Image has to do with your focus

What you focus on you empower. If you focus on your “old life” you will find yourself struggling to overcome those old habits and lifestyles. However, if you will **change your focus to the Holy Spirit within and the “New Creation” that you have become.... You will discover a new power and direction in your life** (*Colossians 3:1-3 NIV Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.*

***Galatians 2:20 NIV** I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”)*

Jesus gave us a great example of how to do this:

***Luke 4:17-19**¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ¹⁸“The Spirit of the LORD is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor.” NIV.*

The book of Isaiah has 66 chapters.

Jesus found the part of that wonderful prophecy that pertained to his life at that specific time and declared what God said about Him.

What does that have to do with us? Every day as you read our daily reading, look for what it says about or to you personally. Look for three things:

1. Who you are because you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior.
2. What you have been given (promises made in the Bible)
3. What you can do (Your authority, responsibilities, commands from God)

The Bible is a love letter from God to you. It's also an instruction manual for victory in your life. Read it, look for those three things and then apply the Word of God to your life. It was transform you, but that's another subject for another teaching.