The Impossible Becomes Possible

[Mar 10:17-31 ESV] – 17 And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" 20 And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." 21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." 22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. 23 And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" 24 And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult 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 a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." 26 And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" 27 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." 28 Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." 29 Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

I. Intro
   A. On the heels of the teaching about approaching the throne of grace as a child, We have another teaching about salvation and the Christian walk.
      1. If we consider the scripture “approach the throne of grace with confidence.”
      2. And the come to Jesus as a child…
      3. We should approach the throne of grace with the confidence of a child dressed in a batman costume, or something like that.
   B. Last week: Come to the savior of the world with child like faith, and don’t hinder the children from coming to Jesus.
   C. This week: Don’t let your independence and self reliance get in the way of your child like faith.
II. Text
   A. Verses 17-18:
      1. A question and a statement
      2. Jesus is Good because He is God, but the point was made about the goodness of humanity right before Jesus teaches about the man’s lack of goodness.
   B. Verses 19-20:
      1. Jesus mentions the commandments about man’s relationship with people in regards to requirements, but not man’s responsibility to God.
      2. The man had probably kept a life together that reflected outward displays of honorable living.
   C. Verse 21:
      1. Jesus looked at him
      2. Jesus loved him
      3. And Jesus went to the heart of the problem…His love of something other than God.
      4. “Have no other God’s before you.”
   D. Verses 22-23:
      1. Hard teaching, the man walked away because he had Great possessions
      2. How difficult for us to set aside everything and follow Jesus.
   E. Verses 24-25:
      1. How difficult indeed, in your own strength…even impossible

2. Camel through the needle:
    a) This may have been a gate in Jerusalem where the camel had to crawl, but I don't think so.
    b) Actually the archeological evidence for the small gate theory has not been proven
        (1) There is no evidence of a small gate for after hours entrance to the city
        (2) This may have been developed in the middle ages, around 1000 ad, to soften the blow of Jesus' teaching.
    c) Jesus was dealing with a truth the Pharisees taught that wealth equates to God's favor and blessing, and therefore one to be more likely to get into heaven.
    d) This is in direct contrast with the actual truth, so Jesus uses the largest animal present in Israel in contrast with the smallest of tools, to show the complete need for us to depend on Jesus rather than any human understanding.
    e) This is another example of us missing the forest for the trees:
        (1) It is impossible to get into heaven as a person that has not completely come dependent on Christ
        (2) Jesus says we must die to self to live for Christ.
    f) It is a hyperbole used by Jesus to highlight the humanly impossible difficulty of relying on wealth rather than God for salvation.
    g) In fact, it only makes sense to understand that we can't count on any other way than Jesus for our salvation.

F. Verses 26-27: Salvation is impossible without dependance on Christ.

G. Verses 28-31:
1. The sacrifice in this world is worth it because Christ is worth it.
2. The worship of, and dependance on our God has never been stated more clearly.

III. Point

A. The Folly of Self Righteousness
1. There was only one good enough, Christ is our righteousness.
2. Obedience to the law was to be a tutor or guardian:
3. [Gal 3:23-26 ESV] – 23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. 24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.
4. The law was never meant to save, but to show us our need for a savior.
5. We take a long time to learn lessons…
6. Out of Egypt:
    a) After 400 years in Egypt God rescued His people
    b) They were marked by the religion of the Egyptians, yet it was a mixed faith.
    c) Ten plagues showed God's ultimate power over the false gods of Egypt
    d) Then, they go to the wilderness, start complaining, worship a golden calf, and arguing with Moses.
    e) They have seen many signs and wonders, yet refuse to believe.
    f) 40 years in the wilderness brought on a new generation.
    g) It days for God to get Israel out of Egypt, it took a generation to get Egypt of of Israel.
7. We are in this battle today:
    a) We trust in our wealth…than can go away with one decision by a world leader
    b) We trust in our strength…that can go away with one microscopic germ
    c) We trust in our Intellect…That is already limited and clouded by the world
    d) We trust in friends and relationships…that were never meant for that load
8. We trust in the wrong thing so many times, we trust in our self to figure it all out.
9. What we must do is rest in Christ and discover HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS IS OURS!

B. The Fact of Dependance

1. We are dependent on Christ for everything.
2. [Col 1:15-20 ESV] – 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.
3. He holds all things together, including us.
4. He is the one that makes the impossible to be possible
    a) The impossibility of my life to reflect the glory of God is painfully on display every day
    b) But, my faith in Christ began a relationship that holds me fast.
    c) That which was impossible was made possible through the death of Christ, and the resurrected life of Christ.
5. Depending on yourself is like trying over and over again to do that which is already been proven to be impossible. (I'm glad we are getting past this…)
6. But as we look at next week's lesson we see the disciples arguing again about who will be more important.
7. WE ARE COMPLETED DEPENDENT!

C. The Follow Up of Action
1. Simple takeaways:
    a) Don't trust in your money
    b) Don't trust in your strength
    c) Don't trust in your wisdom
    d) Don't trust in your intellect
    e) Don't trust in your self or what you can gather in this world.
2. Simple actions:
    a) Give to the kingdom work: help your church meet the budget and pay off this building by giving generously
    b) Surrender your strength to the Lord, let him overwhelm you with HIS POWER!
    c) When the devil tells you that you aren't enough, remind him that you already know that, but you belong to one that has always and forever will be enough.
3. Base line:
    a) [Mat 22:36-40 ESV] – 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."
    b) This is only possible through Christ's gift of faith, his presence of strength, and our willful self denial.

IV. Close:
A. God's work is present in you
B. God's power is working through you