

The Radical Call to Surrender and Stewardship

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Hook

What if the thing you treasure most is the very thing keeping you from the life God wants to give you?

This powerful question lies at the heart of one of Jesus' most challenging encounters—the rich young ruler who walked away from eternal life... not because he was evil, but because he was attached.

He wanted salvation, but not at the cost of surrender.

And that's where we must ask ourselves: Are we holding onto our possessions, our comfort, our reputation, or even our dreams—so tightly—that we're missing God's call to something greater?

Today, we're diving into a radical message about wealth, the heart, and what it truly means to follow Jesus.

Because the road to the kingdom isn't blocked by sin alone—it's often hindered by security.

And the only way through is surrender, faith, and the courage to invest our lives in what truly lasts.

1. The Cost of True Discipleship

Jesus' encounter with the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17–22) reveals that eternal life is not earned by keeping the commandments, but requires a radical surrender.

The man claimed moral righteousness, yet Jesus identified his true master—his wealth.

The call to "sell all you have, give to the poor, and follow Me" is not a universal command for all, but a personal invitation to prioritize Christ above all earthly securities.

True discipleship demands complete devotion, even at the cost of comfort, reputation, and relationships.

2. The Heart's True Treasure

Building on Matthew 6:21—"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"—

This sermon challenges believers to examine what they truly value.

Wealth, success, family, or status can become idols that displace God.

The rich man's sorrow shows that attachment to earthly treasures can block spiritual freedom.

Jesus calls us to lay up treasures in heaven—investing in eternal values like generosity, humility, and faith—because our hearts follow what we cherish most.

3. The Impossibility Made Possible by Grace

The disciples' shock at Jesus' words ("Who then can be saved?") leads to one of the most hopeful declarations:

"With God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27).

Humanly speaking, surrendering deeply held attachments is impossible.

But divine transformation is not achieved by willpower—it is enabled by God's grace.

No one is beyond redemption, no matter their wealth or past, if they rely on God's power rather than their own strength.

4. The Call to Faithful Stewardship of Talents

The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25) teaches that God entrusts each person with resources, gifts, and opportunities according to their ability.

Whether great or small, these "talents" are not to be hidden out of fear, but invested with faith and courage.

The master rewards not perfection, but faithfulness. The message is clear: we are accountable for how we use what God has given—our time, skills, influence, and spiritual gifts—for His kingdom purposes.

5. Examples of God-Gifted Individuals in Action

The sermon highlights biblical figures who exemplify faithful stewardship:

Solomon – Given divine wisdom to lead and write Scripture.

Bezalel & Oholiab – Filled with the Spirit for artistic craftsmanship in building the tabernacle.

Miriam – A leader and worshipper who inspired a nation.

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Joseph – Used administrative gifts to save nations through divine insight.

Paul – Transformed from persecutor to apostle, using his intellect and passion to spread the Gospel.

These lives demonstrate that every talent, when surrendered to God, becomes a sacred instrument for His glory and the advancement of His mission.

Call to action

Today, Jesus is looking at you—just as He did the rich young ruler—and He loves you. But He's not asking for your admiration...

He's calling for your surrender.

That thing you're holding onto—your comfort, your reputation, your dreams, even your resources—may be the very thing keeping you from the fullness of His purpose.

And your talents, your time, your gifts?

God didn't give them to you to bury them in fear or busyness.

He entrusted them to you to invest boldly for His kingdom.

So here's the challenge: What is the one thing God is calling you to release?

And what is the one talent He's calling you to activate?

This week, take a step of faith:

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If you've been hiding your gift, start using it—speak up, serve, create and lead.

If you've been clinging to security, practice generosity—give your time, your money, your heart.

If fear has paralyzed you, pray: “Lord, help me trust You more than I fear the cost.”

Remember: With man it is impossible... but with God, all things are possible.

The journey of true discipleship begins the moment you say, “I'm following You—no matter the cost.”

Don't wait. Don't hide. Take up your cross. Follow Him.

And watch what God does through a life fully surrendered.