

Messages From Mark! #3

Can You Buy Your Way Into Heaven?



Text: Mark 10:17-31

I. Introduction

- Let's spend the next few moments talking about a subject that is very precious to many of us!

II. Money

- No greater invitation – “Come, follow me” – Mark 9:21
- “But sell all you possess” is hard to do – Mark 9:25
- Money is no small deal in our lives!
- Money can separate us from God
- Success = salvation! – not money as today's culture measures success
- There is nothing wrong with having things BUT sometimes we need to see if we are enslaved to things
- Having things can be oppressing; it can crowd out the spirit of God in us if we let it
- “If I were a rich man...” from Fiddler On The Roof could lead to less time for God
- Statistics on suicide among wealthy teenagers show the more money they have, the more likely they are to commit suicide
- Material things and money do not bring happiness

III. Take Control Of Your Finances

- Only The Lord Knows
- We need to take control of our finances
- Many of us don't know where our money goes

IV. Take Control Of Your Desires

- Debt, especially heavy debt, gets in the way of spiritual life
- Bankruptcy is not always the way out
- There are inexpensive ways to enjoy life – take a walk, spend time together as a couple or family; church activities

- What would really improve the quality of life?
- You don't have to keep up with the Jones to have a fulfilling and satisfying life

V. God Comes First

- Wait for the nice things in life, save money until you can pay cash
- There are many things that come between you and God
- Life does not exist in the things we accumulate, but in things eternal
- Take charge of your lives!
- Take charge of your finances!
- Take charge of your desire!

VI. Conclusion

- I challenge you to find out what it really means to be Christ's disciple
- What if Jesus were to actually say to you, "Just sell it all and come and follow me." – WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO DO THAT?