

Failing Faith - Part 1
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Mark 10:17-27 (ESV) 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?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 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.'" And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." 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." Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. 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!" 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! 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." And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."

- What is your faith built around?
- What are we to make of our faith when the world, our preconceived notions about God, begin to fail?
- Comfort
- Control
- Certainty
- God intends to free us from more than our idolatry; He intends to free us from ourselves.
- The good news is that God is hanging on to you, and in the end, when all is said and done, the power of God will triumph over every pain and loss.
- "Where [God] is, tragedy is only provisional and partial, and shipwreck and dissolution are not the absolutely final things."

1st) God is not simply a **TOOL** to get what we want.

Mark 10:17-18 (ESV) 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?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone."

- This man built his faith around his success, comfort, and good deeds—and it failed in the face of Jesus

A) The **PREMISE** is wrong.

Mark 10:17b (ESV) "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

- What must I do?
- I can be good enough for God to accept me
- The truth is we want conditions with God
- If I...then God...
- If I do something then God will do something
- Eternal life

John 17:3 (ESV) And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

- Eternal life comes from knowing Jesus, not just knowing about him!
- This guy wanted the gift but not the giver

B) The **ANSWER** is wrong.

Mark 10:19-20 (ESV) 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.' ” And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.”

- No you didn't
- And Jesus, looking at him, loved him,
- Expose the guys self righteousness

C) The **EXPECTATION** is wrong.

Mark 10:21 (ESV) 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.”

- Jesus is sharing the gospel with this guy
- Jesus was showing him his heart
- The gospel has to be bad news before it can be good news
- You're a sinner
- You have fallen short of God's standard
- Jesus has you covered, all you have to do is accept his finished work
- Never take an individual command and make it a universal principle

2nd) Everyone needs Christ because we're **All BROKEN**.

Mark 10:20 (ESV) And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.”

- He overestimated his goodness, and underestimated his need for God.
- His obedience earned his blessing.
- I've been good therefore I deserve blessings
- No matter how good we think we are, we are all broken and need God's grace.

- The God of the Bible is a holy and righteous God
- The problem is that we are anything but perfect!
- Who, then, can be saved?

Mark 10:26-27 (ESV) And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."

3rd) Receiving grace depends on our **RESPONSE** to Jesus.

Mark 10:22 (ESV) Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

- He must get rid of all the things he thought were "proof" of his goodness, and give them to people he believed were undeserving.
- He must offer his complete, ultimate loyalty to Jesus. Instead, the man went away dejected.
- CONCLUSION - This man lacked trust.