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Central Congregational Church  
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"  
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## Getting In by Giving Up

Mark 10:17-31

Series: Getting In on the Good News  
The Gospel of Jesus Christ According to Mark

### Central Passage

**Mark 10:17–31 (NIV)** — **17** As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" **18** "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. **19** You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'" **20** "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." **21** Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." **22** At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. **23** Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" **24** The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard 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 someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." **26** The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" **27** Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." **28** Then Peter spoke up, "We have left everything to follow you!" **29** "Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel **30** will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. **31** But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

**Central Thought:** We get in on the Good News when we are willing to give up on self-preservation through possessions, position or piety, and follow Jesus with wholehearted abandon toward the least and the last, entrusting our present and our future to his care and promises.

#### ❖ The Question – What must I do to inherit eternal life?

- The man is focused on personal effort to achieve eternal security.

**Romans 3:20 (NIV)** — **20** Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

#### ❖ The Answer – Sell everything and follow me.

- Jesus calls the man to complete divestment, radical compassion and personal relationship.

#### ❖ The Dilemma – The impossibility of the rich entering the kingdom of God.

- We cannot cling to anything in this life and follow Jesus into God's presence and purpose.

**Luke 16:13 (NIV)** — **13** "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

#### ❖ The Promise – Blessings beyond measure and eternal life.

- Nothing is ever really lost when we give up everything in this world and follow Jesus.

**1 John 5:20 (NIV)** — **20** We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.