**Week 11) The Trap**

Mark 10:17-27 English Standard Version (ESV) [*See also Matthew 19:16-29 and Luke 18:18-30*]

**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.”

**Questions:**

**a) Observation: What are the facts?**

1. What question did the young man ask Jesus?
2. What was the young man’s disposition?
3. What information about the young man does this passage provide for us?
4. How did Jesus feel about the young man and how did he answer the question?
5. What was the young man’s final response to Jesus’ demand?

**b) Interpretation: What is the meaning?**

1. How would you describe the young man we meet in this passage? (More details are available in the Matthew and Luke passages.)
2. Why do you think the young man approaches Jesus and asks the question about eternal life?
3. Did you expect the initial answer Jesus gave (v. 19) or did it surprise you? Why/why not?
4. Why do you think Jesus demanded that he goes and sells all his possessions?
5. The passage states that the disciples “were amazed at his words”. Why would they be amazed?
6. How do you interpret the statement, “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.”?
7. What do you think is the main point of this passage?

**c) Application: What do I do with this?**

1. What can we learn about salvation from this passage?
2. Do you think our discipleship is influenced by our possessions in any way? How so?