



January 23, 2013

Reflection Questions Mark 10:1-31

1. In v.2, the Pharisees attempt to entrap Jesus with a question. They want him to lay out an interpretation of a law whereby they can pigeonhole him into a certain camp. It's easier to denigrate people when we place them into a particular camp: e.g. political parties, education levels, race, income levels, etc. What camps are you tempted to view with less sensitivity than others?
2. Jesus' response to the Pharisees is brilliant. He dodges their question, and uses it as a way to differentiate between the *right* answer and the *best* answer. The Pharisees give the right answer, but it's not necessarily the best answer. As Christians, we can live within the Kingdom without actually feasting on the fruits of the Kingdom. We can do the right things without seeing the beauty of God. To what degree have you found this to be true in your own life? In what areas have you sought to be obedient as if obedience is the end all of life with God?
3. Jesus explains some of the intricacies of divorce to his disciples. Most of us have been affected by divorce on some level. Based on your experience, how is divorce a provision for people, but not part of God's original design for humanity?
4. Jesus rebukes his disciples when they attempt to keep children away from Him. He then explains that children possess something naturally that is more difficult for adults to attain. What positive characteristics do you see in children that you lack? For what reasons do you think Jesus used children as a standard for entering the Kingdom of God?
5. The rich young ruler is a troubling case. On the surface, it looks like he's lived a God-honoring life. He's "kept all the commandments from his youth" (v.20). But he misses the point somehow. It's not the discovery of an outstanding sin that caused him to be sorrowful. It's his realization that, no matter how good he is, he can't purchase salvation through keeping the law. The Gospel is always difficult for people who see themselves as morally upright, because Jesus can always point out the one sin we haven't bested. What is the biggest area in your life that you haven't been able to "fix?" In what ways has God used that area in your life to invite you to surrender to Him again and again?