

**Gains and Losses In Following Jesus**

**This week** – The Lord Jesus teaches us the currency of Heaven (the entry price).

**“Sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in Heaven: and come, take up the cross and follow Me.” *Mark 10v21.***

**Bible Readings for this week:**

Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep.

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Mark 10v13-16 (Jesus is interested in children)	
Monday	Mark 10v17-27 (The rich man - No treasure in Heaven)	
Tuesday	Mark 10v28-34 (The riches of following Christ)	
Wednesday	Mark 10v35-45 (Be humble servants of the Lord)	
Thursday	Matthew 8v19-34 (Lay-up treasure in Heaven)	
Friday	2 Corinthians 5v1-21 (Clothed in Christ’s righteousness)	
Saturday	Isaiah 55v1-13 (The Lord’s forgiveness is free )	

**Important Thought for us Today:** What is the ‘currency of Heaven’? It is that which ‘buys’ a sinner their place in Heaven. People naturally judge themselves as being good enough to ‘earn’ the right to enter Heaven. “Surely, if we do the best we can, trying our hardest to be good, then God will be pleased with us and let us in”. The Rich Young Ruler came with this proud attitude, but the Lord did not accept him. He was rejected.

God’s Heaven is a perfect place, and God has said that no sin will ever exist there. So, as every person is deemed by God to have sin, no one can enter Heaven without the guilt of their sin being completely removed. The ‘Currency of Heaven’ is righteousness - **Christ’s Righteousness**. God transfers Christ’s righteousness to our ‘account’, when we come in sincere repentance and faith in Christ, Who died on Calvary to remove the guilt of our sin.

**Hymn 243 - recognising the cost to the Saviour of dying to save lost sinners:**

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| <p>1. When I survey the wondrous cross<br/>On which the Prince of glory died,<br/>My richest gains I count but loss,<br/>And pour contempt on all my pride.</p> <p>3. See from His head, His hands, His feet,<br/>Sorrow and love flow mingling down:<br/>Did e’er such love and sorrow meet<br/>Or thorns compose so rich a crown.</p> | <p>2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,<br/>Save in the death of Christ my God:<br/>All the vain things that charm me most,<br/>I sacrifice them to His blood.</p> <p>4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,<br/>That were an offering far too small,<br/>Love so amazing, so divine,<br/>Demands my soul, my life, my all.</p> |
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**The Lord Jesus Teaches Us About The Currency of Heaven.**

- **The Rich Young Ruler Asks, ‘What Must I Do To Inherit Eternal Life?’**
    - The Lord is very pleased with his question, but **not** with his proud attitude.
    - He felt he was living a ‘good’ life and expected the Lord to say, ‘Well done.’
    - He knew nothing of God’s holy standard or of how eternal life could be his.
  - **The Rich Young Ruler Had Yet To Learn Some Hard Lessons: -**
    - **A Different Currency Was Needed** – His money, social status, and good works were of no value in the ‘**Bank of Heaven.**’ **Righteousness**, the ‘**Currency of Heaven**’, was required and he had none. He was bankrupt.
    - **The Missing ‘Pounds’** – The Lord did not ask him about his attitude to God - His Being, Character, and Holiness. **Commandments 1 to 3.** Read **Exodus 20v3-7** In claiming that he ‘**had kept God’s Law from his youth**’, he had totally ignored these very important commandments which reveal Who God is. The Lord saw his heart – he was very proud, self-centred, and covetous.
    - **He Had Made a Bad Mistake** – He had miscalculated his own worth. His pride and selfishness caused him to think so much of himself, showing a total failure to recognise his hearts’ sinful state as measured by God’s holy, perfect standards.
    - **He Heard the Terrible Truth** – Tested. ‘**Sell and give to the poor.**’ **Mark 10v21.** His proud boasting of keeping the Law of God stopped immediately. His ‘master’ sin of covetousness was now openly revealed. By selfishly keeping all his God given wealth to himself he was ‘**stealing**’ from God, and from the poor and needy. Sadly, the rich young man lost out by loving his wealth more than he did God.
    - **Only One Hope of Eternal Life** – Trusting in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection, and having His righteousness **is our only hope** of eternal life. The righteousness of Christ, (He perfectly kept all the 10 Commandments), is the only ‘**currency**’ acceptable to God to ‘**buy**’ us a place in Heaven. Selfish living in this life and trusting in our own goodness will bring eternal loss and will never bring us the eternal gain of God’s wonderful Heaven.
  - **The Lord Jesus Invites Us To: =**
    - Acknowledge that we can bring nothing of value to Him to enable us to enter Heaven. We must plead His death on Calvary where he takes away the guilt of sin, replacing it by His righteousness, making us fit for Heaven.
- Come to Him now, before pride poisons your heart, and possessions and worldly gain consume your time, thoughts, emotions and energies.***
- The Lord Jesus said, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”** **Matthew 6v33.**
- Paul wrote, ‘For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.’** **2 Corinthians 5v21.**