

Sermon Questions

Mark 10:13-31

1. In the first part of the passage, Jesus welcomes and blesses the children and suggests that the apprentices should learn about the kingdom from the children. How have you, or how have you seen the church, welcome and bless children? What have you learned from children about God, God's character, and the Kingdom of God? Who are the children you learn from most often?
2. The rich, righteous man asks Jesus the question "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" and the apprentices ask Jesus "who then can be saved?" How would you answer those questions? How do you see Jesus answering those questions? If your answer differs from Jesus', how would you account for that?
3. Why do you think Jesus talks about money so often in the gospels? Do you think we take his teachings about money seriously enough in our own discipleship? Some have said that our personal budgets say a lot about our theology, or phrased another way, our budgets are theological documents. Would you agree?
4. In verse 19, Jesus refers to the second half of what we call the 10 commandments, but he noticeably leaves out the first few commandments that focus on God rather than neighbour. Why do you think this is? See if you have any ideas first, but if not, see if you think Matthew 6:1-4, 19-24 might be relevant.
5. So many of the world's injustices disproportionately affect children. Take the fast fashion phenomena of the textile industry for example, that relies heavily on child labor to reduce costs and deliver low priced consumer goods. Some suggest that there are almost a billion people working in the garment industry, but only 2% of them make a living wage. How might the teachings of Jesus in this passage affect the ways we purchase clothes (clothes are just one example) when we learn more about how unjust some of the systems we participate in affect children?

Here's just one resource for more information: <https://labs.theguardian.com/unicef-child-labour/>