

“Food for thought!” on Sunday 12th October 2025

In this weekly format, you will find the text preached in church. At the footnotes of each page are the Bible verses referenced. If you open your Bible and pray for God to speak to you, these verses will be a good place to start reading and listen for God’s voice.

Reading from the Bible in the book of Mark 10 v 13 - 27

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him hold them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

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?”

“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honour your father and mother.’”

“Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

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.”

At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!” The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said,

“With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

Not being good .. but turning to the One who is good?!

Do you remember exam grades? Maybe you’ve had some as an adult - professional exams or even driving tests? It seems to me that the older you get, the harder the marking gets! You might get full marks in a spelling test but by teenage years you are no longer getting full marks – the question is how far down you will get marked! In England last year only about 7 percent of teenagers got close to, or above, ninety percent in the GCSE! And it gets even harder to score highly – into colleges and universities – there a score of 73% would be brilliant...

And this is true in so many other adult tests - I remember counting up the list of minor errors on my driving test (looking over the shoulder of my examiner!).. thankfully I passed!

Are you still trying to get full marks?

Think of these wonderful children... They are not trying to score full marks, they are not trying to earn their reputation, they are not trying to qualify! A child turns to the one who loves them and trusts. A child turns at the words of the one who loves them. A child runs to the one who loves them when a difficult moment happens. A child rests in the arms of their caring adult!

Jesus words in this passage are often cut into different conversations... however, they are one text: I invite you to remember the contrast between the children and the man. He was rich and in some governing or leadership role, probably a high-ranking religious man. He was trying to work his way to 100 percent. He had his eye on perfection – the illusive perfection – a goal we can never reach and a goal he could never reach, even though he thought he was *so close*. Just a bit more effort; try a bit harder; build on what he clearly thought was *so much* success! But he could not.. and when Jesus gave him the hardest test he suddenly realised he could not... he could not turn like a child to the One who loved him. He could not accept the words of the One who loved him.¹ He could not turn for help in the difficult moment – he could not rest in the arms of the One who loved him.. he turned away sad. He walked away.

The children came to Jesus and he blessed them. Will you come to Jesus and be blessed His goodness, His love, His truth, His way, His life?²

Children can remind us of honesty – they don't hide when they are tired, they don't hide when they are hurt, they don't hide when they are in need. They turn to the one who loves them.

If you are hiding, tired, hurt, in need... will you turn to the One who loves you and offers you the free gift of life?³

God has seen that we are separated from Him. He knows we cannot be perfect. He has lived the perfect life for us and shown his love towards us⁴. He looks at us like he looked at that rich young man- he looks at us with love.. and says

"If you will return, then return to me – I will cure you of your backsliding"⁵..

"remain in my love"⁶..

"I will give you rest for your souls."⁷

We can all learn from children, every day.

It may feel impossible to change... remember... *'all things are possible with God!'*

Will we choose to turn to God who loves us; turn to the One who saves us – Jesus?

Written by Rev. Martyn Tyrrell.

¹ Read more at John 6 v 63

² Read more at John 14 v 6

³ Read more at Revelation 22 v 17

⁴ Read more at Isaiah 59 v 16

⁵ Read more at Jeremiah 4 v 1

⁶ Read more at John 15 v 9

⁷ Read more at Matthew 11 v 29