



You would be hard pressed to encounter a more impressive person than the young man we meet in Mark 10. Mark not only tells us he was a man of great means, but that he captured the heart of Jesus. Matthew adds that he was young. Luke reminds us that he was influential. He not only impresses the authors of the first three gospels, he impresses the disciples as well.

His resume can be summed up in the three words we most often use to describe him—he was a “rich young ruler.”

In spite of his sincere devotion and great wealth, Jesus tells him he lacks one thing. The one thing that he lacks, however, is far more formidable than he could possibly have imagined.

AN IMPRESSIVE YOUNG MAN (vv. 17-22)

1. What does the manner in which this young man approaches Jesus tell you about his respect for Jesus and the urgency of his inquiry?
2. There are several important concepts in this passage that are roughly synonymous: (a) “eternal life” (b) “have treasure in heaven” (c) “enter the kingdom of heaven” (d) and “be saved.” While we experience each of these in a limited way now, we will experience them on a far grander scale in the future.
 - a. How does each of these describe a unique aspect of our relationship with God?
 - b. How do we experience them in the present?
 - c. How will we experience them on a far grander scale in the future?
3. What is surprising about the way Jesus answers the young man’s question?
4. What was the one thing the young man lacked?
5. Our response to the gospel always calls for repentance and belief. Repentance describes what we turn away from, and belief describes what we turn to?
 - a. What was Jesus asking this young man to turn from?
 - b. What was he asking him to turn to?
6. Why do you think Jesus tells the young man to sell everything he has rather than merely to change his attitude toward wealth?

7. What are some things you might need to turn away from in order to more fully believe the gospel?

A FORMIDABLE OBSTACLE (vv. 23-27)

1. Why do you think wealth is a particularly formidable obstacle to entering the kingdom of God?
2. What does the disciples’ amazement (followed by exceeding astonishment) tell you about their own misunderstanding of what it meant to follow Jesus?
3. How does God make the impossible possible when it comes to overcoming the obstacles that would keep us from entering the kingdom of God?

AN UNBELIEVABLE PROMISE (vv. 28-31)

1. How might each of the items Jesus lists in these verses also pose as formidable obstacles to entering the kingdom?
2. How might this promise be fulfilled literally for those who follow Jesus?
3. What are some other ways we receive a hundredfold in this life?
4. What can we anticipate in the life to come?