

**Matthew 19:27-30:** Then Peter said in reply, "See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" <sup>28</sup> Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup> And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. <sup>30</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

**Intro:** The last two weeks, we've studied the rich young ruler & Jesus' instruction to His disciples about riches & wealth after this encounter. We've seen the RYR is really the poor, deceived slave because he chose his wealth & possessions over Jesus. Last week, we saw that salvation for the rich (& everyone!) is difficult & even impossible apart from God, but God is able to do the impossible & save everyone who repents, believes, & follows Jesus.

Today, we see that everyone who leaves everything to follow Jesus will receive rewards that far exceed what they leave behind, they will reign with Christ, and they will enjoy eternal life as His beloved first and chosen ones.

### **1. A Radical Sacrifice**

**Matthew 19:27:** Then Peter said in reply, "See, we have left everything & followed you. What then will we have?"

- **Luke 5:4-11:** And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup> And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. <sup>7</sup> They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." <sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, <sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." <sup>11</sup> And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

- **Matthew 4:19-22:** And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

- **Luke 12:22-34:** And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. <sup>23</sup> For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup> Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! <sup>25</sup> And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>26</sup> If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? <sup>27</sup> Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>28</sup> But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! <sup>29</sup> And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. <sup>30</sup> For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup> Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. <sup>32</sup> "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

According to church history, every single one of Jesus' disciples, except John (exiled!) died for following Jesus.

Can you say what Peter said? "We have left everything & followed you"? How is your life different because you decided, by God's grace, to follow Jesus?

**Luke 14:33:** Any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

**John Piper:** Renouncing what you have may not always mean selling it all . . . But renouncing all does mean that everything we have is totally at Jesus' disposal for purposes that please Him & that it must never get in the way of radical obedience to His command of love.

God is asking some of you to make this radical sacrifice for the first time in your lives today. **GOSPEL!**

## **2. A Universal Question**

**Matthew 19:27:** Then Peter said in reply, "See, we have left everything & followed you. What then will we have?"

What will we have? What will we get out of this? Or, have we done enough? What prompted Peter to ask this?

Peter just saw the rich young ruler walk away sad. But Peter is saying, "Not me! Not us! We've left all for You!" And Peter wants to know, "what then will we have?" What will we get out of this? What reward will we get for leaving everything and following You? Jesus doesn't rebuke Peter for asking this. Is this a good question?

**a. It's a bad question if you haven't really followed Jesus (like Peter & the disciples had), but you've followed what you really want to get from Jesus:** We come to Jesus for Jesus! Not for what He can give us!

**b. It is a question all men ask because all men seek happiness: Blaise Pascal:** All men seek happiness. This is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to this end. The cause of some going to war and of others avoiding it, is the same desire in both, attended with different views. The will never takes the least step but to this object. This is the motive of every action of every man, even of those who hang themselves.

**c. Jesus never calls us to deny ourselves for the sake of self denial in & of itself. Jesus' calls for self denial are always calls to deny ourselves in order to gain a greater pleasure: C. S. Lewis:** The New Testament has lots to say about self-denial, but not about self-denial as an end in itself. We are told to deny ourselves and take up our crosses in order that we may follow Christ; and nearly every description of what we shall ultimately find if we do so contains an appeal to desire. If there lurks in most modern minds the notion that to desire our own good and earnestly to hope for the enjoyment of it is a bad thing, I submit that this notion has crept in from Kant and the Stoics and is no part of the Christian faith. Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised to us in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in the slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

**d. Ultimately, the great pleasure all men deeply desire is God Himself: Augustine:** You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.

**C. S. Lewis:** If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.

- **Psalm 42:1-2:** As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. <sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

- **Psalm 63:1:** O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

- **Philippians 3:7-8:** But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

### **3. An Extravagant Reward**

**Matthew 19:28-30:** Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

<sup>29</sup> And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. <sup>30</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

**Katharina von Schlegel:** Be still, my soul: your Jesus can repay from His own fullness all He takes away.

**B. Davis:** 1) You must leave everything to follow Jesus; 2) Jesus will give you far more than you'll ever give away

**a. There will be a new world where we will be fully satisfied: Verse 28:** Truly, I say to you, in the new world

**Revelation 21:1-4:** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

**b. The Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne where He will fully satisfy us: Verse 28:** Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne

- **Isaiah 33:17:** Your eyes will behold the king in his beauty . . .

- **Psalms 27:4:** One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

- **Revelation 21:22:** And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

- **Revelation 22:3-4:** No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. <sup>4</sup> They will see his face . . .

**c. Those who leave everything to follow Jesus will judge & reign with Him: Verse 28:** Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

The disciples' desire for power & authority & glory & honor will be fully satisfied beyond their wildest imaginations. This verse is either speaking about the participation of the twelve disciples in the final judgment along with Jesus, or their participation in reigning with Him in the new heavens & the new earth.

1) If the text refers to the final judgment, it refers to the twelve apostles judging rebellious Israel who rejected Jesus: **D. A. Carson:** At the consummation, the Twelve will judge the nation of Israel, presumably for its general rejection of Jesus Messiah.

2) If the text refers to the reign of Christ in the new heavens & the new earth, then it teaches us the twelve apostles will participate in the reign of Christ over all God's people in the new world: **W. Hendriksen:** (What is meant by these "twelve tribes of Israel?") In all probability the term refers to the restored new Israel. Whether, as such, it indicates the total number of the elect gathered out of the twelve tribes of the Jews from the beginning to the end of the world's history, or even all the chosen ones of both the Jews & the Gentiles, in either case it must refer to those who have been regenerated, for into the reborn universe to which 19:28 refers, nothing unclean will ever enter.

3) There's a way this reward is for us too: All God's saints will reign with Christ! Our desires for power & authority & glory & honor will also be fully satisfied beyond what we can imagine! We will reign with Christ!

- **1 Corinthians 6:2-3:** Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!
- **2 Timothy 2:11-12:** The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; <sup>12</sup> if we endure, we will also reign with him . . . .
- **Revelation 3:21:** The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

**d. Those who leave everything to follow Jesus will receive a hundredfold in provisions & family:**

**Verse 29:** And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold . . . .

1) Who leaves all of this? Following Jesus causes division in many homes; Missionaries leave family:

**Adoniram Judson:** I have now to ask whether you can consent to part with your daughter early next spring, to see her no more in this world? Whether you can consent to her departure to a heathen land, and her subjection to the hardships and sufferings of a missionary life? Whether you can consent to her exposure to the dangers of the ocean; to the fatal influence of the southern climate of India; to every kind of [need] and distress; to degradation, insult, persecution, and perhaps a violent death? Can you consent to all this, for the sake of Him who left His heavenly home and died for her and for you; for the sake of perishing, immortal souls; for the sake of Zion and the glory of God? Can you consent to all this, in hope of soon meeting your daughter in the world of glory, with a crown of righteousness brightened by the acclamations of praise which shall redound to her Saviour from heathens saved, through her means, from eternal woe and despair?

2) Jesus' promise of reward refers to what you will gain in the church family – they will love & provide for you:

- **Romans 16:13:** Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a mother to me, too.

- **Philemon 1:10:** I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.

- **Matthew 12:48-50:** But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?"

<sup>49</sup> And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>50</sup> For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

**And what about for missionaries where there is no church?** Jesus will be your home; He'll be your brother and your sister and your mother and your children and your fields! Jesus will be your all in all!!

**e. Those who leave everything to follow Jesus will receive eternal life: John 3:16; John 11:25-26; Joy forever!**

**David Platt:** Jesus' call to salvation guarantees radical reward. Jesus tells the rich ruler to go and sell his possessions, but he follows it up by saying, "and you will have treasure in heaven". Jesus was not calling the rich man away from treasure but to treasure. There's actually a tinge of self-serving motivation here, as in, sell everything you have in order to get something better! The question for us is whether we will live for short-term pleasures we cannot keep or for long-term treasure we cannot lose. We don't want to miss the reward in Christ because we want more stuff in this world. Jesus is infinitely better, and His reward is eternal. In verse 29 we see what a wise investment our radical surrender is, for Jesus says that our return will be a hundredfold, both now and in the age to come. That's radical reward.

Since we have such great, radical, extravagant rewards guaranteed to us by our loving, good, & trustworthy God, we are free to be generous!

**John Piper:** The more sacrificially generous you are on earth, the greater will be your enjoyment of heaven. Therefore, since Jesus loves us and summons us to maximize our eternal joy in heaven, he demands radical freedom from the love of money & radical generosity, especially toward the poor.

**Craig Blomberg:** This entire episode should challenge First-World Christians, virtually all of whom are among the wealthiest people in the history of the world, to radical changes in their personal and institutional spending. The solemn warnings of James 2:14-17 and 1 John 3:17 demand much more serious attention, lest many professing Christians tragically find themselves damned on Judgment Day.

**f. V. 30: But many who are first will be last, and the last first:** From the world's perspective (and even from the disciples' perspective!), the rich young ruler seemed to be first, but unless he repented, he was not saved. But the last, the least, the small in this world, the disregarded & those viewed as unimportant – like children – will be first!

**D. A. Carson:** [This statement] is a way of setting forth God's grace over against all notions that the rich, powerful, great, and prominent will continue so in the kingdom. Those who approach God in childlike trust will be received and advanced in the kingdom beyond those who, from the world's perspective, enjoy prominence now.

Salvation is all of grace! You cannot earn it! You cannot work for it! It is freely given! **Romans 4:5**

And dear beloved saints – you will be first in His eyes! God delights in you! God loves you! God rejoices over you! You are the apple of His eye! He loves you with an everlasting love & underneath are the everlasting arms!

**Remember why we have all this great, extravagant reward?:** Jesus is the richest of all the rulers Who left everything in a way Peter just could not understand at this point in the Gospel story. And Jesus did it for the joy that was set before Him! He did it for His Father's glory! He did it to bring many sons to glory! He did it to bring you to glory! Jesus is the all satisfying Son of Man Who sits on His glorious throne right now, ruling & reigning & interceding for you! He left everything, was separated from His family, was forsaken by His God & Father, endured eternal death on that cross, & was the ultimate first Who was last for our sake so that we might be first & have eternal life & rewards beyond what we could ever imagine! And He rose up from the dead! So He's also the last who was first – the first born from the dead, so that in all things, He might have the preeminence!

**Song:** Jesus You are my reward! To see Your face on that day is all I'm living for!

Everyone who leaves everything to follow Jesus will receive rewards that far exceed what they leave behind, they will reign with Christ, and they will enjoy eternal life as His beloved first and chosen ones.

**Jesus Died And Gave Up Everything  
In Order To Salvation Bring  
So We Might Now Forever Sing!**

“To follow You, we've left it all!”  
This Peter said while standing tall  
There'd come a time when he would fall  
Deny his Lord and shrink so small  
But this our Lord did not appall  
To save our souls He left it all  
Though He's the biggest, He came small  
And hid His glory for the gall  
Upon that cross, which was His call  
God's wrath on Him would soon befall  
He rose alive to reinstall  
What's right and good to never fall  
For He forever will enthrall  
Since He's the Christ Who's all in all!

Whatever you lose, Christ can repay  
From His own fullness – He's the way  
To joy and pleasure – bow and pray  
For Him to be your heart's deep “Yea!”  
Then when all things He takes away  
You can with humble joy say:  
“No sacrifice I've made this day!  
For Christ is all to me – my stay!”  
He'll keep you stable in the fray  
All earthly treasures He'll outweigh  
O'er all your heart He will have sway  
You'll long to follow and obey  
Even the hardest things He'll say  
Since He died to love display  
And rose alive on that third day  
He molds your heart like humble clay  
So be a child and trust His way!

Christ Jesus Gave Up Everything  
Left Glorious Throne To Heaven Bring  
To Sinners Who Have Felt Death's Sting  
He Died And Rose Our Reigning King  
By Faith Alone We To Him Cling  
Who Saves From Every Sinful Fling  
He Conquered Death, There's No More Sting  
And Now When We Leave Everything

He Gives Far More And Makes Us Sing  
With Him Life Has Eternal Zing  
From Philly To Those In Beijing  
His Praises Will Forever Ring  
For He's Our All, Our Everything  
So Everything To Him We Bring  
Our Satisfying Treasure King  
From Where All Pleasures Flow And Spring!