

THE GOSPEL OF ABUNDANCE

Week 4

What is good news to one person can be bad news to someone else. The abundant life is so radically different from what the world and culture say is the “good life” that some wouldn’t think the gospel is good news at all! The gospel is radical news, turning the world’s systems on its head. And for some, they aren’t ready to forsake the world’s system in exchange for new way of life in Jesus.

Mark 10: 17-27 ¹⁷ And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, **what must I do** to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰ And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” ²¹ And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” ²² Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

²³ And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴ And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶ And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.”

The gospel can sound like foolishness to some. But God can draw anyone to Himself. There is always hope, for with God all things are possible. John 6:44 ⁴⁴ “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.”

QUESTION: What worldly/cultural systems have been difficult for you to lay down even as a believer?

QUESTION: How do we approach spiritual blindness and deafness in people?

QUESTION: Why do you think Jesus responded to the rich man the way He did?

QUESTION: Why is it difficult to enter the kingdom of God when you are wealthy or “have it all?”

QUESTION: Is there anything in your life that feels impossible?

QUESTION: Do you have a testimony of God moving in an area that felt impossible?