

Recap of 11/12/23 message by Pastor Chris (Mark 10:13-27):

- Children demonstrate an attitude of dependence. They depend on others for everything, their safety, security, and daily needs. When we approach God, it needs to be with a similar attitude of dependence. That's not to say we are to remain thinking childishly about God, of course not. We grow in understanding and wisdom as we follow Jesus faithfully. However, we need to depend upon God for our salvation and for our safety, security, and daily needs as well.
- This passage deals with the question of how we are to enter the kingdom of God, and the answer is "as a child - dependent on God." This core truth is exposed in the rich man trying to earn his way into the kingdom. The problem is the heart issue of trying to earn his way. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and are in need of a savior (Romans 3:23). Because of our sin we deserve death, but eternal life is a free gift of God made available through God's grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus (Romans 3:24, 6:23). When the man goes away sad it is because he is dependent on his law observance and riches more than God. The danger for us is that we too can depend on wealth or status more than God. This is why Jesus teaches regarding the difficulty for the wealthy to enter the kingdom. Wealth is not the problem; it is the attachment to wealth that bends our hearts and creates difficulties in our dependence on God. Poverty can create other barriers, namely, anger and envy. However, Paul teaches us that he has learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, he lived in humble means and prosperity, abundance and suffering, and it is his relationship with Christ and the grace of God that he is able to be strengthened to live in every circumstance (Philippians 4:12-14). Paul accepts the grace of God as a gift and is dependent on Him in every circumstance.
- We can live this way as well; in fact, we are called to live this way - dependent on the LORD. We should carefully reflect on what we depend on for our safety, security, and well-being. The answer needs to be Jesus! One of the ways we can evaluate where we place dependence is our finances. We should consider how we spend money and give to the church and others. Is it consistent with one who is dependent on God for salvation and who understands that everything belongs to God, all we have, and we need to steward those resources well and give generously? Or, do our finances show that we place our hope and dependence on the material things of this world, which leave us walking away from following Jesus saddened and lost