

Recap of 11/19/23 message by Pastor Steve (Mark 10:28-34):

*In the wake of the rich young man's unwillingness to sell all he has, give to the poor, and follow Jesus, Peter proclaims that the disciples have given up everything and followed. The parallel passage in Mt 19:27 tells us that Peter then asks, "what then will there be for us?" Jesus uses this as an opportunity to teach His disciples what is truly important, and it isn't possessions or status. Putting God first and following Jesus is success in God's economy and no matter what we give up to follow Him, **with Jesus, we always get more than we give up for Him.***

Jesus answers Peter by saying that they will receive one hundred times what they have given up. This is not a promise of material wealth, it is a statement regarding the church, the body of Christ, to which all believers belong. In this new family, we have numerous brothers, sisters, mothers, and children and we are called to love, support, care for, and help one another.

In addition to family and provision, we also get persecutions and eternal life. As Christ followers, we are guaranteed to be persecuted. Jesus told us that in this world we will have tribulations (Jn 16:33). Peter says we should not be shocked by the "fiery ordeals" (1 Pt 4:12-10) that we encounter. These things come as by-products of following Christ. The world rejected Him, it will certainly reject us. However, instead of shrinking from the trials, we should rejoice when we suffer for Jesus or His Gospel because we know that His followers inherit eternal life with Him.

Jesus culminates his teaching by highlighting that many of those who society thinks are first, who have the most status, will be last because they don't follow Him. Those who are apparently last, those of lowest status, will be first if they follow Jesus. Finally, He uses Himself as an example. He once again tells His Apostles that He is going to Jerusalem where He will be betrayed, mocked, and killed. He will appear to be last but will, in reality, be first because after three days he will "rise again."