

Hundredfold is a Promise!



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The greatest *question* was asked of the greatest *One*—and the *only* One who could answer it Mark 10:17 “*Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?*” It was a profound question as the answer gives the *spiritual conditions* for receiving *eternal life*. The reply Jesus gave is the most *valuable information* anyone could know!

Before answering, Jesus asked the man Mark 10:18 “*Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.*” It was a *test question*, but the young man did not reply to it. Jesus was the Messiah and actually God manifested in Person—so how the man addressed Him, shows that he just wanted an opinion from a religious Teacher.

The man should have replied—*You are the divine Son of the living God and actually the same as God, so it would be correct to address You as I would God.* The young man, however, did not give a correct response. Jesus answered his question just the same Mark 10:19 “*Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.*”

If the man truly *wanted* eternal life, he just *had* to *obey* the Scriptures—that is an important point. Most who profess *faith* in Christ, expect to enter Heaven *without* obedience to the Word. They think that the Atonement of Christ will *take* them to Heaven, even if they do *not* live up to

New Testament teaching. But if anyone does *not* actually *trust* on the shed Blood of Jesus, they will *not* receive eternal life!

We enter Heaven *only* through faith in the Atonement Blood of Christ, and obedience to the Word of God is part of that faith—that is the only possible preparation for entering His kingdom. Jesus explained the difference between the *Law* and the *Gospel*. The Law was to be obeyed in *human* strength; but the Gospel in *divine* strength from God.

Most religions today teach a *subtle delusion*—that salvation is a *gift* through atonement *without conditions*. It is true that we are saved by grace and given eternal life *without merit*; but no one is given salvation without meeting *conditions*—there *are* conditions to be met, and these conditions for eternal life are clearly explained in New Testament Scriptures.

Unless these conditions—which have *no merit* but are absolutely *necessary* for salvation—if these *Scriptures* are not obeyed and their *directions* followed, we will end in the flames—the same as if we never *had* any religious beliefs or any religious convictions. The Atonement of Christ supplies the *power* to obey the Word and gives eternal life as a gift—no merit on our part is required.

The young man replied Mark 10:20, “*Master, all these [Commandments] have I observed from my youth.*” He *had* obeyed the Scriptures and lived up to the moral law. He had *not* committed adultery; *never* took a human life; had *not* stolen anything; *never* lied as a witness; did *not* cheat anyone; and *had* honored his parents. As far as he knew he had *obeyed* the Commandments. Then Mark 10:21 “*Jesus beholding him loved him.*”

It is certainly a good thing to have Jesus look upon us with love, because John 14:21 “*He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by*

My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

Since Jesus *loved* him—as He does *everyone*—He *had* to give him the Truth of salvation; so He says, “*One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.*”

The man’s owned *property* owned *him*—it was a financial *asset* and considered laid-up *treasure* to trust on, so Jesus said he would have to sell it and give all the money to the poor. He just had to transfer his treasure on earth to his future home in Heaven. *Then* he could follow Jesus—living day-by-day by faith in God. The man would just be making a direct deposit from *earth’s* bank to *Heaven’s* bank. Doing this, however, saddened the man, who felt financially *secure* with his treasure on *earth*. Mark 10:22 “*He was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.*”

Two commands were *not* mentioned—but the *money* question that Jesus mentioned struck at the root of *both*. The *first* is that we are to *love God* more than any treasure; any money; any interest; or any one on earth. This supreme *love* for God is from His *Spirit* in our heart.

If we truly loved our fellowman, we would want to see *them* have as much as *we* do—or at least be willing to share our possessions with them. If we loved God with all our heart, we would give up anything to obey *His Word!* The young man was *unwilling* to part with his money—giving evidence that he loved his *money* more than he loved *God*.

A scribe asked Matthew 22:36-40 “*Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt*

love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

The entire message of the Bible is summed up in those two commands. The young man had not obeyed this *first* command, so Jesus went on to say, Mark 10:23, “How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! 24-28 The disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!

“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.”

No one would get rid of their money on earth and trust God in Heaven, unless He enabled them and inspired them to do that. Mark 10:28-30 “Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time—[all those things]—with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.”

When unbelievers put money in a bank on earth, they expect a small percent interest, but true believers do not always consider the huge percentage promised to them when they put their money in their account in Heaven. God will be faithful to meet His obligation—far more than any bank on earth—and He has promised, “An hundredfold now in this time.”

If we truly believe that God means what He says—and this is not just a line of poetry, but a real statement of Bible Truth—that if we give up

anything, “for My sake and the Gospel's,” Jesus said, “shall receive a hundredfold now in this life, with persecutions, and in the life to come, eternal life”—then we would gladly follow those instructions.

God's hundredfold is 10,000%—one hundred times as much. If we give up *one dollar* to obey God, we get *one hundred dollars* in its place. If we give up a friend for the sake of God's Truth, we have a right to claim *one hundred* friends to take their place. It does not matter *what* it is that we *lose* for the sake of God's Truth, we are to *claim* a hundredfold blessing.

Persecutions from putting God *first* means we are called *fools*; made *fun of*; and *mocked* by the world, because of the stand of faith we have taken—but in the next life, we are given *eternal* life. We must be willing to part with *anything* or *anyone*—if that be God's will. If anything comes *between* us and God, we must always put God *first*—regardless of our own *feelings* or the wishes of *anyone* else.

This divine *principle of trust on God* encompasses everything—spiritually, physically, financially, at work, with family, friends, fellowship, and everything else. With every penny given to the poor, or given in support of God's church, we have a right to *claim* one hundred times in return. It is a marvelous investment.

If our boss wants us to do something *against* Bible teaching, and we *refuse* to do it because God's Word comes first; and we *lose* that job due to our stand of faith—we have a right to *claim* a job that is a *hundred times better* than the one we gave up. It does not *matter* what is given up for the Truth's sake, we are to get one *hundredfold* in return.

If we do not *claim* our hundredfold reward, and are not very *definite* about receiving it, God is not able to bless us, because if He gave the reward when we did *not* claim it, we would think

that it just happened, and God would not get the glory. God is able to work in our life when we know that He is the *One* who did it.

If anyone or anything else is given the credit for what *God* did, His hands are tied, and Satan is able to say—*it just happened that way; you were just lucky; or you would have received it anyway*. Therefore, it is very important that we *realize* when God does something, that it *is* God and *He alone* who did it.

Faith is the *eye* that sees God's hand moving; and where there is no eye to see, God's hand cannot move. If God would shower blessings upon, or heal the average professing Christian today, they would give the credit to the new medicine they tried; the prescription they followed; the food they ate; or the change in climate.

When we give anything else the credit, we are guilty of idolatry. Aaron told the idolatrous Israelites Exodus 32:4 “*These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt;*” but it was *God* who led them out, *not* the two calves. That sin had to be *confessed* and the idols *eliminated* before God could help them.

Every human remedy or plan is to be eliminated for ever—so that when we are healed; blessed; delivered; and rewarded, we will *know* that it was *God* who did it. When He is given all the honor, glory, and praise, He can work quickly in giving us our *hundredfold promise!*



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