



# Sermon Notes from 4 November

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## Celebrating The God Of The Impossible (Mark 10:17-27)

by Pastor GL Wong

The God of the Bible is vast beyond measure. The only way to truly know Him is encountering Him through the revelation of the word. The story of the rich young man is repeated in three of the gospel books (Matthew, Mark, Luke). The story reveals something very fundamental about God, and it is critical we embrace and celebrate this understanding.

### 3 Things from Mark 10:17-27

#### 1. Who God Is

The rich young man discovered the real God, and it disturbed him. **When you meet the real Jesus, there is no room for apathy, boredom, and mild response.** *How do we know that the God we know is truly the real God?*

The rich young man in the story is described as remarkable not just in his credentials but also his actions. He was so zealous in searching for an answer, he ran up (unashamedly) and knelt (humility) before Jesus (Mark 10:17). In response, Jesus rejects the man's use of the word 'good'. By doing so (Mark 10:18), He wasn't denying his own goodness, but challenging the man's understanding of God. The Greek term '*agathos*' the young man used as 'good' means internally virtuous. He thought of himself and many other people are good in nature. **Our good characters and work is not the way to salvation.** Jesus reveals to us God's essential character: his holiness (Ps 14:3, 53:3, Rom 3:12). **It is in the light of God's holiness that we see our depravity and sinfulness. We desperately need His grace to live another day.**

Rom 3:20 - **Only by the light of the law can the vermin of sin in the heart be exposed.** Jesus quotes the commandments (Mark 10:19) to help the man see the truth: you and I can agree with our lips that we are sinners and yet still be in denial in our hearts that we are truly sinful.

#### 2. What God Wants From Us (Mark 10:20-27)

Jesus wants from us the same thing He wanted from the young man: repentance. Mark 10:21 - Jesus exposed the idolatry in the man's heart which led him to realise his love for God and men is far less than he thinks. He could not bear to be deprived of his fortune. **There is something about deprivation that pricks us and reveals the true nature of our hearts.** God wants us to surrender our hopes, dreams and 'precious' to Him. Jesus isn't just calling the man to repentance but also faith in Him (Mark 10:21). **Both repentance and faith are gifts from God.** Jesus stresses how difficult this would be for those who had wealth (Mark 10:23) and backs it up with an illustration (Mark 10:25). Mark 10:27 - The problem isn't wealth, but the idolatrous human heart. Salvation is only possible when God graciously grants repentance and faith (John 6:65, 2 Tim 2:25). Eph 2:5 - All of us desperately need God to call us out from death to new life!

#### 3. Where God Is Taking Us

Whenever what seems impossible becomes a reality, always give praise to God. Jesus' reference to His disciples as 'children' is His call for us to become absolutely dependent like little children with child-like faith.

### 3 Areas Expressing Our Deep Trust In And Dependence on God

**1. Regular Devotion** There is no way to walk in trust and dependence unless we deepen our devotional lives.

**2. Prayer & Evangelism** God is greatly glorified by the trust and dependence on Him for the salvation of our loved ones and friends.

**3. Become a catalyst for the gospel movement** Being able to collaborate greatly with City to City (CTC) would greatly increase the impact of our gospel movement in the city.

With man, it is impossible, but with God, all things are possible!