**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Three Strikes, and You’re Out |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Mark 10:17-27 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2151 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. There is a real problem in that people attend church, they listen to sermons, but they are never radically, dramatically and eternally changed.
      1. They have religion, but they have never met God.
      2. The church may be full, but the people are often empty.
      3. They go through the motions, they try to live a good life outwardly, but they have never truly found a new life.
         1. They’ve never been converted.
   2. Mark 10:17-27
      1. In the Gospel of Matthew, we learn that this man that came running to the Lord was a rich, young ruler.
      2. Today’s message will deal with four specific things that come directly out of this passage in the Gospel of Mark.
2. proud men at their best are sinners at their worst (mark 10:17)
   1. The rich, young ruler was proud of his achievements.
   2. Outwardly, he had much to be proud of and much that we would admire.
      1. He was eager.
         1. He came running.
            1. Mark 10:17
      2. He was full of strength and the vigor of youth.
      3. He was enthusiastic.
      4. He was humble.
         1. He knelt before Jesus.
            1. Mark 10:17
         2. Jesus was a peasant prophet from Galilee, and this man was a rich, young ruler.
            1. He had position, possession, power and prestige, and he had it at a young age.
            2. Yet, he publicly knelt before Jesus.

Many today will go to Hell because of their pride.

They don’t want anyone to know that they have needs in their lives, so they don’t go forward to give their hearts to Jesus when an invitation is given.

* + 1. He was discerning.
       1. He knew that there was something different about Jesus.
          1. Mark 10:17
       2. He knew worth and goodness when he saw it.
          1. There are people today who cannot discern goodness, even in the Lord Jesus.
          2. There are cynics who know the price of everything and the value of nothing.
    2. He had his mind on spiritual things.
       1. His question was, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?”
       2. Mark 10:17
       3. What are you really interested in?
          1. Most people are only interested in tomorrow and the humdrum round of life.
    3. He was morally clean.
       1. Mark 10:19-20
       2. Outwardly, he did not steal.
       3. He did not commit adultery.
       4. He did not lie.
       5. He did not take God’s name in vain, and he kept the Sabbath.
       6. He would have made a wonderful neighbor.
       7. He was someone you could trust.
       8. He was a man whom you would not have been afraid for your children to be around.
    4. He was successful.
       1. He had success at an early age.
          1. Matthew 19:20-22
       2. He would have been made treasurer in the average church today.
  1. Mark 10:18
     1. Jesus was teaching this young man that he himself (the young man) was not good.
     2. Jesus was also teaching him that Jesus Himself is God.
        1. Jesus is God.
        2. If He is not God, then He is not good.
           1. In this verse in Mark, Jesus said that there is none good but God.
        3. Don’t flatter Jesus or merely tip the hat to Jesus.
           1. You must bow the knee to Jesus.
  2. Romans 3:10-12
     1. No one has ever been saved until he has seen that he is a lost sinner in the sight of a righteous and holy God.
  3. Exodus 34:7
     1. God is a God of mercy.
        1. God forgives.
     2. God is love, and He is justice.
        1. If you take part of the truth and try to make that part of the truth all of the truth, then that part of the truth becomes an untruth.
     3. God does forgive, but He will by no means clear the guilty.
        1. If God were to clear the guilty, then He would become guilty.
        2. When a guilty man is acquitted, the judge is condemned.
  4. Jesus taught this young man that proud men at their best are really sinners at their worst.
     1. Many people ask why bad things happen to good people.
        1. There are no good people.
           1. Mark 10:18
     2. The worst form of badness is human goodness when human goodness becomes a substitute for the new birth.
        1. The Lord Jesus taught that prostitutes and crooked tax collectors were going to Heaven before the Pharisees because they had their self-righteousness as a substitute for God’s mercy.
     3. No matter how nicely we may live, none of us live as well as this rich, young ruler; and yet, Jesus told him that there is none good but God.
        1. Mark 10:18

1. god’s perfect law condemns man’s sinful pride (mark 10:19-21)
   1. Mark 10:19-21
      1. God is a holy God, and He will have holy laws.
      2. Jesus is not teaching salvation by commandment-keeping.
         1. He is actually teaching the opposite.
         2. Jesus is teaching this young man that he is not keeping the commandments like he may think he is.
   2. Commandment-keeping has never saved anyone.
      1. Galatians 2:16
      2. The law, the Ten Commandments, cannot save anyone.
      3. The purpose of the law is to let us know that we’re sinners.
         1. Romans 3:20
      4. Jesus used the law to teach the rich, young ruler that he was a sinner.
   3. It is by the law that we have the knowledge of sin.
      1. God gives us the holy law so that we can see that we’re sinners in the sight of a righteous and a holy God.
   4. Sin is breaking God’s law.
      1. 1 John 3:4
   5. Jesus talked to this young man about keeping the commandments because God’s grace will mean nothing to a person until he sees himself as a sinner.
      1. Romans 3:20
      2. Little children are ready to be saved when they see that they are sinners in the sight of a righteous and holy God.
         1. Not just naughty or disobedient to mom or dad, but a sinner in the sight of a righteous and holy God.
   6. Luke 5:32
   7. The law doesn’t save us, but it gets us ready to be saved.
   8. There are two reasons why many people don’t have any concept of salvation:
      1. They’ve never seen the absolute holiness of God.
         1. Mark 10:18
      2. They have never seen themselves as a sinner in the sight of a righteous and holy God.
         1. When a person has been wounded by God’s law, he is then ready for the healing balm of salvation.
   9. The rich, young ruler had a superficial knowledge of the law.
      1. He said that he had kept the law from his youth.
      2. Romans 7:14
         1. Everything we do in the material, or outwardly, may look right; but the law is spiritual.
            1. It deals with the heart.
            2. Matthew 5:27-28
            3. Matthew 5:21-22
   10. Mark 10:21
       1. One of the commandments is, “Thou shalt not covet.”
          1. Exodus 20:17
       2. The rich, young ruler was covetous.
       3. He had an idol in his life.
          1. His god was gold.
       4. The rich, young ruler said that he had kept the whole law, but in reality, he had broken the whole law.
          1. Matthew 22:35-39
             1. This sums up the whole Ten Commandments:

Love God and love your neighbor.

* + 1. The rich, young ruler wasn’t willing to sell everything and give it to the poor and follow Jesus.
       1. He loved his money more than he loved God.
       2. He loved his money more than he loved his neighbor.
          1. The spirit of this young man had broken all Ten Commandments by failing to do this one thing.
  1. The Lord Jesus was not teaching that we can buy our way into Heaven by selling everything we have and giving it to the poor.
     1. He was giving this man a revelation of his own heart.
     2. Jesus was showing this man that he was guilty of the sin of covetousness.
     3. James 2:10
     4. The Lord Jesus was showing him the futility of trying to behave himself into Heaven.
        1. The rich, young ruler had a superficial knowledge of his own goodness.
     5. Jesus was teaching the impossibility of salvation by commandment-keeping.

1. no man can serve two masters, but he must serve one (mark 10:21-22)
   1. Mark 10:21
      1. This young man had an idol in his heart.
         1. This idol was his wealth.
   2. Mark 10:23-24
      1. Jesus is not saying that a rich man can’t be saved.
         1. Mark 10:27
      2. “That trust in riches.”
         1. Whatever a person trusts in is his god.
   3. Anything we love more, serve more, trust more, or fear more than Almighty God is an idol.
   4. The rich, young ruler had a false god.
      1. Matthew 6:24
      2. This man needed to repent in order to have eternal life.
         1. He needed to repent of idolatry.
      3. 1 Thessalonians 1:9
   5. You cannot go to Heaven by keeping the commandments, and you cannot go to Heaven by having an idol in your life.
      1. You must turn from that idol to God.
      2. This turning is called repentance.
         1. This is where many people miss salvation.
         2. They think that they can hold on to their gods and just add Jesus as one more god.
   6. There are many Scriptures that deal with repentance:
      1. Mark 1:15
      2. Mark 6:12
      3. Acts 2:38
      4. Acts 3:19
      5. Luke 24:46-47
      6. Acts 17:30
      7. Acts 20:21
   7. Repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change of life.
      1. If you have an idol in your life, to repent means that you forsake that idol and turn from that idol and now follow Jesus Christ.
      2. Have you repented?
         1. Have you turned from the idols in your life and made Jesus Christ Lord?
         2. Luke 13:3
            1. No repentance, no redemption.
   8. No one can serve two masters.
      1. Matthew 6:24
      2. You cannot hold your god of greed with one hand and your God of grace with the other hand.
      3. You have to turn from idols to serve the living God.
   9. There are many people have joined churches who have never really repented of their sins.
      1. There has never been a change of mind.
      2. They simply wanted to acquire eternal life, just like the rich, young ruler.
      3. The Bible never says to accept Jesus as your Savior.
         1. It says to receive Christ as your Lord.
      4. Mark 10:24
         1. If you are not trusting Jesus, then you’re not going to make it to Heaven.
   10. No one can serve two masters, but he must serve one.
       1. Jesus is calling us to follow Him.
          1. Mark 10:21
2. Whatever master a man chooses will master that man (mark 10:21)
   1. Mark 10:21
      1. When Jesus told him to sell what he had and give it to the poor, that meant to forsake his old master.
   2. Repentance and faith are related.
      1. When we turn from sin, we turn to Jesus.
      2. The rich, young ruler’s sin was greed.
         1. He had to turn from it and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ.
         2. He needed a new master.
            1. Mark 10:21
   3. Is Jesus Christ the Lord of your life?
      1. Romans 10:9
      2. Faith is not merely agreeing to theological facts about Jesus; it is enthroning Jesus.
      3. Have you come to the place where you realize that there is none good but God?
         1. Mark 10:18
      4. You cannot have a false god in your life.
         1. Repent of your sin.
         2. Mark 10:21
   4. Mark 10:22
      1. Jesus gave the young man a choice.
      2. The Lord Jesus was not talking about losing everything, but about finding everything.
         1. He was talking about having treasure in Heaven.
   5. The rich, young ruler chose to go back to his idol.
      1. And now he is lost for all eternity, and he doesn’t have his treasure.
         1. He has his false god that will torment him for all eternity.
      2. Jesus let him go.
         1. And He will let you go, also.
   6. Whatever a person chooses will master that person.
      1. Give your heart to Jesus, and Jesus Christ will master you.
3. CONCLUSION
   1. There is a decision before you.
   2. Every person has three opportunities to go to Heaven:
      1. He or she can die before the age of accountability.
         1. Little babies who die go straight to Heaven.
      2. Keep all the commandments absolutely perfectly.
         1. Never sin anytime or anywhere in thought or in deed.
         2. This is only theoretical because no one has ever done this, and no one ever will.
      3. Follow Jesus Christ who died upon the cross for you.
   3. The rich, young ruler had reached the age of accountability, he could not keep the commandments, and he failed to give his heart to Jesus Christ.
   4. If you will receive Jesus Christ as your Lord, He will save you and keep you saved.
   5. Acts 16:31
   6. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   7. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. John 3:16