

Intro: Is It Worth It?

Mark 10:28-31 (ESV) ²⁸ Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you."

²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel,

³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.

³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

1. The Bondservant: From Your Past To Your Present.

1a. You were a slave to sin that is now set free.

Leviticus 25:55 (ESV) ⁵⁵ For it is to me that the people of Israel are servants. They are my servants whom I brought out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

John 8:31-36 (ESV) ³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,

³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

³³ They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.

³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

1b. You should stay free to serve one another.

Galatians 5:1 (ESV) ¹ For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:13 (ESV) ¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

1 Peter 2:16 (ESV) ¹⁶ Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

1c. You are being shaped to be like the Savior as you serve.

John 13:12-17 (ESV) ¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?"

¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am.

¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

1 Peter 4:7-11 (ESV) ⁷ The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1d. You should celebrate an abundant life.

John 10:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

2. The Bondservant, From Your Present To Your Future.

2a. You will receive important responsibilities.

Matthew 25:21 (ESV) ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

Luke 19:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.'

Revelation 20:6 (ESV) ⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

Luke 16:10-11 (ESV) ¹⁰ "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.

¹¹ If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?

Mark 10:42-45 (ESV) ⁴² And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

⁴³ But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,

⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.

⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

2b. You will receive Incredible rewards!

Hospitality Practiced = Matthew 10:41-42 (ESV) ⁴¹ The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. ⁴² And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

Helping The Poor = Mark 10:21 (ESV) ²¹ And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."
(see also Matt. 6:1-4)

Humility In Prayer = Matthew 6:16-21 (ESV) ¹⁶ "And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,

¹⁸ that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,

²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Hope In His Promise = 2 Timothy 4:8 (ESV) ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Invitation: Revelation 22:12 (KJV) ¹² And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Is it worth it?