

The Gospel of Mark
Radical Surrender
Mark 10:17-22

We live in the strongest, most prosperous nation in the world. We are taught to set our goals high, work hard, and we can accomplish anything. Our nation truly is the land of promise. But is it possible that the riches of spiritual blessings promised by God to those who follow Jesus have been hijacked by the lure of the American Dream? Have we tied our concept of democracy and freedom to our faith to the point where the former is only as strong as the latter? Along the same lines, is it possible that we have also tied our material blessing to our faith as well?

1. Radical surrender kneels at the goodness of God.
2. Radical surrender prioritizes obedience to God.
3. Radical surrender anticipates the treasures of God.

Radical surrender realizes that the things of this world aren't worth holding onto while the things of Christ are worth absolutely everything. What Jesus offers is priceless. In exchange for the pleasures and power and wealth of this world, He offers himself and an eternal relationship and fellowship with Him. What is that worth to you today? What is it that Christ is trying to pry from your hands so that you can more effectively follow Him? What is it that you must release so that God can use you for His glory and the glory of His kingdom?

For further consideration:

When did you begin to think about the deeper things of life? How old were you when the concept of eternity created things like confusion, doubt, and fear? Why is coming to Jesus with respect and humility necessary for salvation, but not sufficient? Why did Jesus make this particular demand of this particular person? What demand might he make of you? Is there something in your life that is functioning the way wealth functioned in this man's life? Are there some gods that continue to distract you from the things of Christ? What are some tangible things that you might do to make sure that what you have in Christ is sufficient for you?