

Week Four of Advent 2019
IS THERE ROOM IN MY HEART?

Mark 10:17-22



The Problem of the Crowded Heart

Inner crowdedness as an idolatry problem
Side-stepping the inoculation of the concept of idolatry
Our affections are on a ladder with one top rung
The rich young ruler has an idolatry problem

Clue #1: “Good Teacher”: v.17,18

Jesus’ puzzling retort “only God is good”
This is not a moment that Jesus is seeking to clarify His identity
Something amiss in the man’s worldview about human potential
No one can come to Me: **John 6:44**; No one is good: **Romans 3:9-20, 23**
Self-initiated self-sustained goodness of heart and action perfectly pleasing to God?

Clue #2: The Omitted Commandments: v.19,20

Jesus only mentions horizontals (see reverse)
He omits all four of the verticals (see reverse)
“All these I have kept from my youth”

Jesus Loved Him: v.21

Before the hard call comes the clear motive
Jesus wants good for this young man: treasure in heaven: **v.21**
See the abundance of the abandoned life in **v.29-31**
How close and yet how far is the young man: “1 thing you lack”

The Call: v. 21

Sell all that you have, come, follow Me
This is not about wealth per se, it is about the top rung of the ladder: **1 Timothy 6:10**
There is great temptation in wealth for it to become top rung: **v. 23-25**
Identifying our top rung: that which we are most reluctant to surrender to Jesus
Caution! because we love something does not mean God will ask us to give it up
But are willing to say “not my will but Yours,” no matter what?
Abraham and Isaac; the Annunciation to Mary; Jesus in the Garden
Discerning with trusted and wise Christian friends or elders

Is There Room in My Heart for Joy?

Surrender creates the space fit for the Lord of the Universe
His Lordship is our *summum bonum*: like the sun on insisting on staying in the center
Our readiness to surrender is correlated to our belief that God wants the best for us
Jesus’ parable of joy: **see Matthew 13:44**

The Mentioned (X) and Omitted (0) Commandments

Exodus 20:1-17	Matthew 19:16-22	Mark 10:17-22	Luke 18:18-23
No Other Gods	0	0	0
No Carved Images	0	0	0
No Name in Vain	0	0	0
Keep the Sabbath	0	0	0
Honor Father & Mother	X	X	X
Don't Murder	X	X	X
No Adultery	X	X	X
Don't Steal	X	X	X
Don't Bear False Witness	X	X	X
Don't Covet	0	0	0
-----	<i>"Love your neighbor as yourself"</i>	<i>"Do not defraud"</i>	-----