



## LESSON 113 - MARK 10:31

**28**Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. **29**And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, **30**But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. **31**But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.

In the last lesson, we looked at verses 28-30. Verse 31 gives an interesting view of the simplicity and the complexity of the scriptures.

The "first shall be last and the last first" is a simple statement, but it incorporates a vast difference in viewpoints. Many that are first--in their own estimation, in society's judgment, in position or power in this world shall be last in God's estimation.

Many who are last [lowest in rank or position in man's eyes, servants to others (Mk 9:35), children in faith (Mk 10:14), humble of heart (Mt 18:4), and those who forsake all and follow Christ (Mk 10:27-30)], shall be first (foremost in importance) in God's evaluation, and shall receive wonderful rewards for their choices.

God does view and value things differently from man. Remember the verse in Isaiah 55: 8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. The LORD was discussing His mercy. He is much more merciful than man would be. He abundantly pardons the sinner (see Isaiah 55:6-8). 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness," states God's willingness to forgive and His requirements for that to happen.

Another verse that points out what God values is found in Isaiah 57:15: For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit.

God enjoys fellowship with the person who has a humble spirit, willing to learn, and who, when he sins, runs to God in confession, truly repentant.

God sees things differently from man. 1 Samuel 16:7 the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. We should rejoice in this truth. Even when others do not understand our motives, or who reject us for our appearance or lack of prestige, God sees our hearts and knows the purity of our thoughts and actions. Soberly, we should realize He also knows when we don't have the right motives.

Those who are great in the world's eyes may not be great in God's eyes. Those whom God will honor first are those who have a humble heart towards Him, those who are of a contrite spirit,

those who trust Him, those who look to Him for their help, those who are rich in faith, those who have the heart of a servant to God and others. Does this describe you?

Lord, I want to be like Jesus, humble before You, seeking Your wisdom, and walking in it, as He did. I seek Your guidance and the instruction of Your Holy Spirit. I know I have the answer to that request, because it is Your desire for me to do Your will. It is my desire, too. I am Yours. Whatever You want for me is best for me. I have confidence in You and in Your will for me. I love You, Lord.

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