

Small Group Discussion Guide

Mark 10:28-31

“The Juice is Worth the Squeeze”

Based on Sunday's
Sermon 9/20/26

Background

“Acting as spokesman (cf. 8:29) **Peter** presumptuously reminded Jesus that the Twelve, unlike the rich man (**we** is emphatic in Gr., suggesting the contrast), had **left everything to follow** Him (cf. 1:16–20; 2:14; 10:21–22). The implication was, “What recompense shall we get?” (cf. Matt. 19:27) Again this reflected the disciples’ tendency to think of material honors in God’s kingdom (cf. Mark 9:33–34; 10:35–37; Matt. 19:28–29).”¹

“Jesus affirmed Peter and reassured him that he had indeed made the right choice. The Lord explained that God will never ask us to sacrifice anything without giving us a staggering return on our investment ... eventually. But this isn’t the simple math used by false teachers of the so-called prosperity gospel. They say, “Give God a dollar (using my bank account), and He will give you one hundred in return.” But faith isn’t a get-rich scheme. The economy in God’s kingdom is far better.”² “Jesus emphasized that gaining treasure in heaven, eternal life, can be accomplished only by God. We come with empty hands. “Discipleship makes all equal; none start with the balance loaded in their favour, when it comes to entry into the kingdom of God. Only the humble, the ‘little ones’, find entry to the kingdom” (Cole, *Mark*, p. 237). This is something that Jesus has emphasized throughout Mark’s Gospel. The needy are healed. The outcasts of society gain entrance to Jesus. When we admit our need, when we admit that we are indeed outcasts, then God performs what was impossible for us—he grants us eternal life and heals us of our sin sicknesses.”³

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

1. What’s a blessing you didn’t expect to *gain* when you started following Christ?

Observation

2. What specific things does Jesus list that people may leave for His sake (v.29)?

¹ John D. Grassmick, “Mark,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 151.

² Charles R. Swindoll, Mark, Swindoll’s Living Insights New Testament Commentary (Tyndale House Publishers, 2018), 275.

³ Rodney L. Cooper, Mark, vol. 2, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000), 169.

3. What does Jesus promise they will receive “now in this time” and “in the age to come” (v.30)?

Interpretation

4. What does Peter’s comment reveal about the disciples’ mindset—are they looking for reassurance, reward, or recognition?
5. Why does Jesus include **persecutions** in the list of blessings? What does that teach about the nature of discipleship?
6. What does Jesus mean by receiving “a hundredfold” in this life—literal, spiritual, communal, or something else?
7. How does the “first/last” reversal challenge human expectations about status, sacrifice, and reward?
8. Read Ephesians 3:14-19. How does this passage help explain the “hundredfold” blessings of following Christ and what our response should be as a result?

Application

9. How have you already experienced the “hundredfold” blessings of Christian community?
10. Where are you in discipleship? What would help you and how can you help others follow Jesus more fully?

Prayer List: