

**11 October 2015 – 20 Sunday after Pentecost.**

**Readings:** Amos 5:6, 7, 10–15; Psalm 90:12–17; Hebrews 4:12–16; Mark 10:17–31. **Intro: *Hard*** – Mark 10:23-24, “Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, ‘How **hard** it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!’ The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, ‘Children, how **hard** it is to enter the kingdom of God!’” The day I began looking at these texts I had two hard pieces of news: One was about a marriage break up; one was of a personal let down...



## I. NOT TO SEE PEOPLE AS GOOD; JESUS AS GOD.

**Mark 10:18**, “And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me **good**? No one is **good** except God alone.”

**John 2:23-25**, “Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. But **Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them**, because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, **for he himself knew what was in man.**”

**C. S. Lewis**, “I’m trying to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God.”

**Keith Green**, “Spiritual master, yes. But God?” (*No Compromise*).



## II. NOT TO THINK I CAN SAVE MYSELF.

**Mark 10:20-21**, “He said to him, ‘**Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.**’ 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.’”

**Mark 10:23**, “And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How difficult it will be **for those who have wealth** to enter the kingdom of God!”

**Deuteronomy 8:17-19**, “Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day. And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish.”

**Revelation 3:17**, “For you say, **I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing**, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.”

**Mark 10:27**, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For **all things are possible with God.**”

**Luther**. Third Article. “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.”



### III. NOT TO DO IT MY WAY; LET GO AND LET GOD.

**Mark 10:21**, “come, follow me.” “Is there anyone else up there?”

**Philippians 3:7-8**, “But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss **because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.”

**CONCLUSION: Matthew 11:30**, “For my yoke is **easy**, and my burden is **light**.” **Mark 10:29-30**, “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, **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.**” God help us NOT to take the hard, but the easy yoke, light burden way, in Jesus’ name. Amen. ☺