

### Scripture Text

Mark 10.28-31

### Context

Jesus has just spoken to the rich younger ruler (Mark 10.17-22) who loved money more than God and hence was not willing to follow Jesus. Jesus then uses the interaction with the rich young ruler to teach the disciples about how it's hard for those with great riches to enter the kingdom. Peter responds by saying that the disciples have left all to follow Jesus. In that context, Jesus talks about how those who have walked away from so much in order to follow Jesus find even greater blessings, including family, in the church.

### Observation and Meaning

- Why did the rich young ruler walk away from Jesus? (10v22)
- What is the promise of Jesus in verse 29-30? How do these passages (Mark 3.31-35, John 19.26-27, Eph 2.19, 1 Tim 5.1-2) teach the same idea of the church as a family?
- When is this promise for?
- Whilst God promises provision and family relationships in the church, what in these verses helps us understand that this promise doesn't simply mean that we will have a comfortable, hassle free life?
- What is the concluding principle that Jesus sums up his teaching with (v32) and how does this help us understand the upside down nature of the Kingdom, including the promise that when we walk away from earthly relationships for the gospel's sake God is able to more than make up for it?

### Big Idea

As we forsake our old life for the sake of the gospel, we find that God provides a new family for us. The church is to be this family to those who God adds to us.

### Connecting to Bible Storyline

Sin fractures relationships with one another, but God is rebuilding humanity as one family in Christ, displayed to all through the church now as we wait his return.

### Sermon Outline

1. The high cost of following Jesus (v28)
2. The great care God shows for us in the church (v29-31)
3. How this works out at RHC

### Application

- What have you found (in the past or present) to be one of the greatest costs of following Jesus personally?
- How does this passage encourage you that walking away from earthly treasures and relationships is worth it, and that Jesus can more than make up that perceived loss to you?
- What does this passage teach us about God's vision for the church as family? How does this challenge or encourage you in how you view relationships at church?
- If the church is a family, how can you go out of your way to build relationships with people from different age / life stage to yourself, to experience the blessing of being a family?
- What practical steps can you take to be family to others at RHC?

## Guide for Study Leaders

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

### Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

### Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. "for", "if", "therefore"), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author's purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

Who is writing and to whom?

What is the situation of the author and of the readers?

Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?

Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

### Application

Apply God's word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good "heart" questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.