

## DISCUSSION IDEAS

# HELPLESS DEPENDENCE

Mark 10:13-31

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Page 1 of 2

**THOUGHT:** How great it is that Jesus did not just use children as examples, but took them into His arms? Check Mark 9:36 and 10:16.

What graphic examples of His love.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: TO BE LIKE A CHILD.**

In Mark 10:13-16,

Why would the disciples have turned children away?

Do you know anyone who just does not like to be around children, or who think that kids are "second rate" beings? Are nuisances?

Jesus was incensed at the disciples' actions. Why? What did He say?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: HELPLESS DEPENDENCE.**

How does our natural pride conflict with any kind of dependence?

Remember Satan's original sin? What was it? Look at Isaiah 14:12-14.

How natural is it for us to accept being helplessly dependent.

It might be useful to discuss our "American values", such as "Don't Tread on Me" (a revolutionary flag). Compare Genesis 4:23-24.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: THE WAY TO GOD.**

Remember again the typical answers to "What would you say if God asked 'Why should I let you into my heaven?'"

Why do we feel that it is so important to earn our own way?

Why do all religions emphasize actions to earn God's favor.

(Yes, ALL. This could be a good opportunity to discuss why and how true Christianity is not a religion.)

Look at Ephesians 2:8-10.

How many times can you find the word "gift" in Romans 5:15-17?

Discuss the loving, giving, heart of God in John 3:16, Rom. 8:32 and 1 John 4:9.

♦ **CHALLENGE:**

As a Believer, do I really, daily, live out helpless dependence on God?

How might the account in Mark 10:17-27 apply in some way to you?

Consider also the issue of being recognized as being successful, not just as being wealthy.

If my daily life shows dependence on God, how is this a witness for Him? How could this be an encouragement to fellow Believers?

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Page 2 of 2

*(Note: Some of you may have heard it taught that "the eye of the needle" was a recognized narrow gate in Jerusalem. That is pure fiction.*

*Is there any need to explain away the truth that,*

*"With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."? <http://www.biblicalhebrew.com/nt/camelneedle.htm> )*

### Remember:

**"Wealth is morally neutral. Wealth is a tool. But like many tools, wealth has a dangerous side. It infects its owners with a spirit of self-sufficiency. For this reason it can be a barrier to receiving the Kingdom in helpless dependence upon God's grace.**

**"May we ever be like children in our dependence upon Jesus." <sup>1</sup>**

### ♦ PRAYER:

**Pray for God to help us truly be willing to depend on Him, moment by moment.**

**Pray for our individual relationships and our witness to those in our lives.**

**Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be continually shown in Barangonan Island, as well as at Shelter Valley.**

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<sup>1</sup> Sunday's message text.