



# Reaching the World For Christ

**Radical: Part 4**  
Mark 10:17-23

## 1. Is Jesus Good or is He God? v17-20

*“I am trying to prevent anyone 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. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic, on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a mad man or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.” C.S. Lewis*

## 2. Do I Lack one Thing Among all my Possessions? V21-22

Robert Gundry wrote, *“That Jesus did not command all his followers to sell all their possessions gives comfort only to the kind of people to whom he would issue that command.”*

Luke 14:33 *So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.*

## 3. Do I Qualify as Having Wealth? V23

## 4. What must I do to be Saved...from the American Dream?

Craig Blomberg wrote, *The New Testament carried forward the major principles of the Old Testament and inter-testamental Judaism with one conspicuous omission: never was material wealth promised as a guaranteed reward for either spiritual obedience or simple hard work. Material reward for piety never reappears in Jesus’ teaching; and is explicitly contradicted throughout.*

Luke 16:13 *No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*

1 Tim 6:9-10 *But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.*

So, How can we be saved, or at least guard ourselves, from the American dream? 7 principles

### 1. Do not buy anything that you cannot give away.

Luke 12:33-34 *Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*



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## 2. Stay totally out of debt.

Rom 13:8 *Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law*

Prov 22:7 *The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.*

## 3. Save, according to God's direction, but be willing to give it all away at His direction.

Matt 6:19-20 *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

## 4. Pray for other's needs only if you are willing to be the answer.

Prov 28:27 *Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse.*

1 John 3:16-18 *By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*

## 5. Look for Opportunities to Give.

2 Cor 9:6-8 *The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work*

Luke 6:38 *give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.*

## 6. Fight against covetousness

Luke 12:15 *And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."*

1 John 2:15-17 *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*

## 7. Strive to be content with whatever God chooses to provide

1 Tim 6:8 *But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content*

Phil 4:11-13 *Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*