

**Sermon Summary**  
**20<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost**  
**14<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

- Jesus' interlocutor (Mark 10:17-31) thinks that he has everything sussed.
- He has been a good man, kept all the commandments.
- He is confident that he stand right before God.
- He must have been very taken aback by Jesus' answer.
- The passage is a reminder of how human values persist within our thinking.
- We believe that perfect behaviour is right for us.
- We believe that we can make God happy
- Jesus questions this: he has to.
- Jesus' life and work reveals the impossibility of our being right before God on the basis of our own piety or efforts.
- He reminds the young man of this by challenging him to give up his wealth.
- In going away the young man reveals how far he is from God: he prefers to cling to his own wealth and substance.
- It's a question we do well to ask ourselves- are we truly placing God at the heart of our lives or are we compromised by our lifestyles.
- The gospel asks us to recognise that we need to think in a new way about what constitutes right living.
- Salvation is an impossibility for humanity, but it is a possibility for God.
- Rather than trying to build our own salvation, we need to admit our need of the one who can save us.
- To do this, as the theologians say, is to live by grace- recognising that it is the generosity of God, not the quality of our living that ultimately makes us a new creation.

14 October 2012