**Ka Mo’olelo O Ke Kanaka Waiwai**

Hope Chapel Honolulu

Mark 10:17-31

21 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.” 22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

(Mark 10:21-22, ESV)

**Introduction**

This story of the rich young ruler has been nearly mythologized here in Hawai’i because of the popularity of the song “Kanaka Waiwai” composed by John K. Almeida. While many know its lyrics in English and Hawai’ian or have learned to dance a hula ‘auana rendition of this song, most people forget the way Christ addressed this apparently sincere young man. We may share contemporary feelings about those who have or have not, but we mustn’t lose sight of Christ’s main point here: salvation is impossible apart from God.

**1. The difference between living for heaven and going to heaven. (Mark 10:17-22)**

a) Why did Christ appear to turn away this apparently sincere seeker of the kingdom of God?

b) Or was Christ trying to make it clear that none could earn their way into heaven?

**2. With man salvation is impossible, but not with God. (Mark 10:23-27)**

a) The people and culture Jesus’ time had equated material wealth now with eternal reward.

b) While some argue about “the eye of the needle” the real point is that salvation is only possible

with God.

**3. What does it mean to set our hearts on heaven? (Mark 10:28-31)**

a) The apparent confusion of Peter and the disciples.

b) What is the apparent contradiction in Christ’s words to two different audiences?

**Conclusion**

Whether in the First Century or the 21st Century, there is a large gap in our understanding of what results in eternal life and what the Word and Spirit of God reveal. Let’s take our common expression of “we are saved by grace through faith, not by works,” for example. Many understand this to mean that we must simply believe and trust God, and not worry about doing anything to earn our way into heaven. However, the testimony of Christ and the apostles is that we cannot earn our way into heaven; we must respond to God’s steadfast power, love, and faithfulness with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind.

**For our prayerful study, discussion, and application:**

1) Read Mark 10:17-27 and compare how Christ addresses the rich man with how He speaks to His disciples.

2) Read Mark 10:28-31. What does Christ promise to those who forsake present blessings for eternal reward?

3) What are the Word and Spirit of God showing and telling you about your relationship with God today?

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