

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this good problem as we look for a future permanent home that Element can move into that will be larger and have some proper Air Conditioning. There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus and people, we hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here.

- The Element Team

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MEN'S BREAKFAST & BBQ

- Regular Men's Breakfast this Saturday, August 12th at 8am

- Family Trap Shooting Event, September 30 @ 8am

Pacific Christian is hosting a Trap Shoot at the Santa Maria gun club. The cost is \$40 and includes the cost for 2 rounds of shells, 2 rounds of clays and a Santa Maria BBQ lunch.

RSVP and money required by September 1st.
More info at moe@ourelement.org.



PART 2 WHAT! — IN THE — WORLD?

MARK 10:17-27

DEUTERONOMY

8:17-18

MATTHEW 6:11

SIXTEEN:

GOD, MONEY, NEEDLES, & CAMELS

8/6/2017

SIXTEEN: GOD, MONEY, NEEDLES, & CAMELS

At the end of last year, Element did a series that answered some common questions about scripture that people have asked throughout the ages. As the series ended, we asked the people of Element to write down their own questions that we would answer in 2017 (and you didn't shy away from asking tough questions)! We have a great, loving God who can handle any question we ask, plus we have a reliable source for truth in the Bible, because every word is perfectly for our use; we can even learn from the words that were commands for other people in another time.

What is the most expensive thing you own?

How much time and energy did you put into buying that thing?

Today we look at the question of Jesus being called "good" in the midst of a question about eternal life. In Jesus' answer He will talk about camels, needles, and God being able to do the impossible. This week's What in the World question is: *"In Mark 10:17-27 I am confused. Does Jesus imply that He isn't good? Does He say it is bad to have riches? AND what is the eye of a needle?"*

Read Mark 10:17-27.

Do you know anyone you'd describe as morally good?

If so, what is it about them that makes you think that?

Does moral goodness equate to salvation?

Why do so many people put such an emphasis on moral goodness?

Jesus doesn't say He isn't good, or that we shouldn't worry about our own moral goodness, but He makes it very clear that our salvation is not something we can bring about on our own. Eternal life on our own is impossible, but it is also a very simple thing for God. Jesus talks to the people in the context of their culture. His questions still apply to us today.

Read Mark 10:17-27 again – what is Jesus trying to tell us by bringing up these "impossible" things?

How does our view of money and wealth put us at risk spiritually?

Money has the power to blind us spiritually to what Jesus is calling us in to. Our comfort and security, when found in monetary resources, shifts our focus from trusting God to provide to trusting the size of our savings, our paycheck, and our debt load; none of which will bring true and lasting freedom.

Where do you struggle with money in your life (guilt/security)?

Have you ever experienced what you would consider freedom in regard to money?

Where can God's grace enter into your life in the area of financial or material resources?

Moral goodness and financial stability are no substitute for truly understanding the good news of what God has come to do in the person of Jesus. People who are "saved" are people who know their salvation is a miracle and there is nothing natural about it. The whole push of Jesus' words to the man in Mark 10 is that God is the only one who can bring about the impossible and save us, that salvation is impossible without God.

As people, we tend to have the ability to make anything into something that can take the place of God in our hearts. We do this with other people, money, things, and our own desires. What we too often fail to realize until it is too late, is that everything that is not Jesus is less than Jesus and will leave us disappointed. Jesus doesn't say money in and of itself is bad, but He wants us to be aware that monetary wealth is not a good security or savior.

In what area of your life can a deeper understanding of eternal life help you repent of everything and become more like Jesus?