

Mark 10:21-22, 28-31; Acts 2:42-45; Acts 4:32-37

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 Mark 10:21-22, 28-31

2 ²¹ And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him,
3 “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to
4 the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come,
5 follow me.” ²² Disheartened by the saying, he went away
6 sorrowful, for he had great possessions.
7 ...
8 ²⁸ Peter began to say to him, “See, we have left everything
9 and followed you.” ²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there
10 is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or
11 mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for
12 the gospel, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in
13 this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers
14 and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age
15 to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last,
16 and the last first.”

17 Acts 2:42-45

18 ⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching
19 and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the
20 prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many
21 wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.
22 ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in
23 common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and
24 belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had
25 need.

26 Acts 4:32-37

27 ³² Now the full number of those who believed were of one
28 heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that
29 belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in
30 common. ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving
31 their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and
32 great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy
33 person among them, for as many as were owners of lands
34 or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was
35 sold ³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was
36 distributed to each as any had need. ³⁶ Thus Joseph, who
37 was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son
38 of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷ sold a
39 field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid
40 it at the apostles' feet.

**Read the passage through completely
before looking at these questions.**

Observation (What does it say?):

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Circle what seem to be key words in each of these passages.
- What words or ideas are repeated?
- What comparisons or contrasts do you see?
- What language is symbolic? What is factual?
- What else do you observe in this passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- By each heading, write a title for that section.
- In the past, what explanations have you heard or about each of these passages? What parts tend to be “explained away”?
- What (if anything) in these passages challenge your previous thinking?
- What other questions come to mind as you read?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- What would these passages look like in our culture? In your relationships? How does most Christian thinking compare with these passages?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?
- What would be different (attitudes, behavior) if God used this passage to change you?

For additional thought and discussion:

- How do you think Jesus' original hearers understood the passage in Mark 10:28-30? Exaggeration? A nice "spiritual" application? Factual (a hundred houses, a hundred brothers, etc.)?
- Compare the lists of what people have "left" and what they "will receive." Any inclusions or omissions that surprise you?
- Why do you think Jesus ended His statement with, "But many who are first will be last, and the last first."? How does that statement relate to what He had just said?

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation **(What does it say?)**

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation **(What does it mean?)**

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application **(What does it mean for me?)**

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,
but draw everything from them,
and suffer nothing to remain
hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see
Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.