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## PROMISES OF GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

### LESSON 3: The Promise of God's Power

#### Scripture

***Mark 10:27 NIV – “Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.’”***

Mark 10:27 reminds us that there are limits to human strength, but there are no limits to the power of God. This promise speaks to women who know what it means to carry family burdens, pray over children and grandchildren, encourage others while needing encouragement themselves, and trust God through situations that seemed impossible.

The central promise is this: What is impossible with people is possible with God.

#### Biblical Context

Mark 10:27 comes from Jesus' encounter with a wealthy young man who came to Him with a serious spiritual question:

*“Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” - Mark 10:17*

This young man appeared respectful, disciplined, and sincere. He ran to Jesus. He knelt before Jesus. He asked a spiritual question. He had kept the commandments from his youth. From the outside, he looked successful, moral, and serious about religious life. But Jesus saw beneath the surface.

Mark tells us: *“Jesus looked at him and loved him.” - Mark 10:21*

That statement is tender and powerful. Jesus did not expose the man because He disliked him. Jesus confronted him because He loved him. Love does not ignore what keeps a person from God. Love tells the truth so that the soul can be free. Jesus told the young man to sell what he had, give to the poor, and follow Him. The man went away sad because he had great wealth. His possessions had become his security, identity, and source of control. He wanted eternal life, but he did not want to release what ruled his heart.

Jesus then said to His disciples: *“How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!” - Mark 10:23*

The disciples were astonished. In their world, wealth was often viewed as a sign of blessing and advantage. If this moral, disciplined, wealthy man could not easily enter the kingdom, they wondered who could.

So they asked: *“Who then can be saved?” - Mark 10:26*

Jesus answered: *“With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.” - Mark 10:27*

Jesus was not speaking about money. He was speaking about salvation, surrender, transformation, and the power of God to do what human effort cannot do.

### **Three Key Points**

#### **I. Human Strength Has Limits, Even When It Has Carried Much**

*“With man this is impossible...”*

Jesus begins with an honest word about human limitation. Some things are impossible for human strength. This is important because many have had to be strong for a long time. Some have carried families through hardship. Some have raised children, helped raise grandchildren, cared for aging parents, supported husbands, served in the church, worked demanding jobs, endured loss, and kept moving even when their hearts were tired.

Many women have learned how to function while grieving, smile while burdened, encourage others while quietly needing strength themselves, and keep the household, family, ministry, or workplace moving even when no one fully understood the cost. Jesus reminds us that even faithful strength has limits.

There are some things human strength cannot do. Human effort cannot save the soul. Human love cannot force another person to change. Human wisdom cannot always repair what has been broken. Human sacrifice cannot guarantee that children or grandchildren will make wise choices. Human experience cannot remove every fear. Human discipline cannot produce the new birth.

The rich young man had much, but he could not free himself from what held his heart. He was moral, but not surrendered. He was respectful, but not ready to follow Jesus completely. He had possessions, but his possessions had power over him.

This teaches that a person can appear successful and still be spiritually bound. A person can have religion and still need surrender. A person can have much and still lack the one thing that matters most. Jesus’ words are not meant to discourage. They are meant to free us from the pressure of trying to do what only God can do.

#### Key Thought

God never asked you to be strong enough to do His work. He calls you to trust His power where your strength reaches its limit.

## Discussion Questions

1. Why is it difficult for mature women, who have carried so much for so long, to admit when something is beyond their control?
2. What burdens do women often carry silently, and how can admitting our limitations prepare us to depend more deeply on God's power?

## II. God's Power Is Greater Than What We Cannot Change

*"...but not with God..." These four words are the turning point of the verse.*

Jesus does not leave His disciples staring at human impossibility. He directs their attention to divine power.

*"With man this is impossible, but not with God."*

God is not limited by what limits us. He is not limited by age, grief, money, family history, sickness, disappointment, social conditions, past mistakes, generational wounds, or human resistance. This is especially encouraging when we are praying over people and situations we cannot control.

A mother may not be able to change the heart of her child.

A grandmother may not be able to choose the path of her grandchild.

A widow may not be able to remove the ache of absence.

A retired woman may not be able to regain a former season of life.

A faithful servant may not be able to make others appreciate her labor.

A believer may not be able to repair every broken relationship.

But with God all things are possible.

God can reach where we cannot reach. God can touch the heart we cannot touch. God can convict, heal, restore, deliver, strengthen, and save. God can move in places where our words are not welcome, and our hands cannot help.

This is why salvation is the greatest demonstration of God doing the impossible. The human heart cannot save itself. The soul cannot raise itself to new life. Sin cannot be overcome by good manners, church attendance, family reputation, or personal willpower. Only God can bring a person from spiritual death to spiritual life.

### Key Thought

The person may be beyond your reach, but no one is beyond God's reach.

## Discussion Questions

1. What does “but not with God” teach us about the difference between human limitation and divine power, especially when we are facing situations that seem hopeless?
2. How should this promise shape the way women pray for their families, trust God for salvation, and remain faithful when change does not happen immediately?

### III. God’s Power Calls Us to Surrender What We Cannot Control

*All things are possible with God.”*

This promise is bold, beautiful, and deeply comforting. But it must be understood in its biblical context. Jesus is not teaching that God will give us everything we want simply because we ask. He is teaching that nothing is beyond God’s ability, especially the transformation of the human heart.

The rich young man walked away sad because he wanted eternal life without full surrender. He wanted the comfort of religion, but not the cost of following Jesus. He wanted assurance, but he did not want to release the thing that had captured his heart.

This is where the lesson becomes personal.

Every believer must ask: What am I holding that keeps me from trusting God completely?

Surrender means we stop trying to be God. It means placing people, problems, memories, wounds, and fears into the hands of the One who has the power to do what we cannot do.

*All things are possible with God”* means God can change the situation, but it also means God can transform the heart that is carrying the situation. Sometimes the miracle is around us. Sometimes the miracle is within us.

#### Key Thought

God’s power is not only revealed when He changes what is around us; it is also revealed when He gives peace, freedom, and surrender within us.

## Discussion Questions

1. Why did the rich young man walk away sad, and what are some things women may hold onto even when those things keep them from deeper peace and obedience?
2. How can the desire to control outcomes interfere with faith, and what does surrender look like for a mature woman who has carried responsibility for many years?

## Contemporary Application

Mark 10:27 does not ask us to deny reality. It teaches us to place reality under the authority of God. This promise speaks to women who know the reality of impossible situations.

There are things that are impossible with people.

-It may be impossible for you to change another person's heart.

-It may be impossible for you to undo the past.

-It may be impossible for you to make grown children choose wisely.

-It may be impossible for you to remove every burden from your family.

-It may be impossible for you to heal yourself from every wound by willpower alone.

But with God all things are possible.

### Reflection Exercise

Complete this sentence privately:

"Lord, I have been trying to carry \_\_\_\_\_ in my own strength. Today, I place it before You because what is impossible with people is possible with God."

Now write a brief prayer:

Memory Verse: "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." - Mark 10:27 NIV

Write it. Memorize it. Live it.