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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.”

This lesson is designed for mature men who have lived long enough to know that strength has limits, resources can run low, family burdens can become heavy, and personal discipline alone cannot solve every problem. Mark 10:27 teaches us that human limitation is not the end of the matter. Where human power fails, God's power is still able.

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 man appeared respectful, disciplined, and morally serious. He ran to Jesus. He knelt before Jesus. He had kept the commandments from his youth. From the outside, he looked like a man who had done well. He had possessions, religious discipline, public respect, and moral confidence. But Jesus saw beneath the surface.

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

That love caused Jesus to confront the man's problem. Jesus told him 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 the place where he found security, identity, and control. When Jesus called him to complete surrender, the man discovered that his wealth had a stronger hold on him than he realized.

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

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

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

That question brings us to the promise: *“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 Main Points

I. Human Strength Has Real Limits *“With man this is impossible...”* Jesus begins with a hard truth: some things are impossible for man.

This is important for mature men to hear because many men have been trained to carry weight silently. They have learned how to provide, fix, endure, protect, manage, and keep going. Many have had to be strong for families, strong in the workplace, strong in crisis, strong in grief, and strong even when they were tired.

There are some things human strength cannot do. Human strength cannot save the soul. Human discipline cannot cleanse the heart. Human success cannot guarantee peace. Human wisdom cannot always repair what has been broken. Human money cannot purchase eternal life. Human reputation cannot make a man right with God.

The rich young man had many advantages, but he could not free himself from what controlled him. He had possessions, but his possessions had him. He had morality, but he lacked surrender. He had religion, but he was not ready to follow Jesus completely.

This teaches us that a man can be successful and still spiritually bound. He can be respected and still inwardly restless. He can know the commandments and still not know the freedom of full surrender. Jesus’ words are not meant to shame us. They are meant to awaken us. The admission of limitation is not weakness; it is the beginning of wisdom.

Key Thought

A man does not become weak when he admits his limits. He becomes wise enough to depend on God.

Discussion Topic: The Limits of Human Strength:

1. Why is it difficult for many men to admit their limitations, and what burdens do they often carry silently because of that struggle?
2. How can success, money, reputation, or responsibility become a false place of security, and how does admitting our limitations prepare us to depend on God’s power.

II. God’s Power Begins Where Human Ability Ends. - *“...but not with God...”*

These four words change everything. Jesus does not leave the disciples with human impossibility. He turns their attention from what man cannot do to what God can do.

“With man this is impossible, but not with God.”

The phrase teaches us that God is not limited by the limits that bind us. God is not limited by age, history, money, diagnosis, background, family patterns, past failure, present weakness, or human opinion. What is impossible with man is not impossible with God. This is the turning point of faith. Faith does not deny the reality of difficulty. Faith refuses to make difficulty greater than God.

The disciples were asking about salvation. They were asking, *“Who then can be saved?”* Jesus’ answer teaches that salvation is not a human achievement. It is a divine work. The human heart cannot transform itself. The soul cannot rescue itself. Sin cannot be overcome by personal determination. Only God can bring new life.

This matters deeply when we pray for sons, daughters, grandchildren, spouses, brothers, friends, and men who seem far from God. Some people appear unreachable. Some hearts seem hardened. Some habits seem too deeply rooted. Some family patterns seem too old to break.

But Jesus says, *“Not with God.”*

God can convict the heart, break pride, and restore a family. God can deliver a man from bondage, awaken faith where there has been resistance, and bring a person to repentance. God can save.

Key Thought

The situation may be beyond your reach, but it is not beyond God’s power.

Discussion Topic: Trusting God Beyond What We Can Manage.

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 men 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, Not Control

All things are possible with God.”

This promise is often quoted when people are facing hardship, sickness, financial pressure, family trouble, or difficult decisions. It is right to find encouragement in it. But the context reminds us that Jesus is not offering a blank check for selfish desires. He is calling people to trust God completely. The rich young man walked away because he wanted eternal life without surrender. He wanted the blessing of Jesus without releasing the thing that ruled his heart. That is where this lesson becomes personal.

Every man must ask: What am I holding that keeps me from following Jesus fully? For one man, it may be money. For another, pride. For another, resentment. For another, control. For another, secrecy. For another, fear. For another, the need to appear strong. For another, the pain of past disappointment. For another, a habit he has learned how to hide.

The promise of God's power does not invite us to manipulate God. It invites us to surrender to God. *All things are possible with God*" means God is able to do what we cannot do, but it also means we must stop trusting the things that cannot save us. God's power is not just for changing circumstances around us; it is for transforming the heart within us.

The mature man of faith learns to say:

"Lord, I cannot do this without You."

"Lord, change what I cannot change."

"Lord, free me from what has mastered me."

"Lord, help me surrender what I have been holding too tightly."

"Lord, make me the man You have called me to be."

Key Thought

God's power is not only seen when He changes what is around us; it is also seen when He changes what is within us.

Discussion Topic: Surrendering to God's Power.

1. Why did the rich young man walk away sad, and what are some things men may hold onto even when those things keep them from deeper obedience?
2. How can the desire for control interfere with faith, and what does surrender look like for a mature man who must trust God not only to fix a situation, but to transform the heart?

Contemporary Application

This promise speaks to men who know what it means to face difficult realities.

Some men are carrying concerns about their children or grandchildren. Some are managing health issues or navigating retirement, aging, grief, or loneliness. Some are still healing from wounds they rarely discuss. Some are worried about the direction of the world. Some are trying to remain faithful while carrying private burdens.

Mark 10:27 does not tell us to pretend that life is easy. It tells us to remember that God is able. There are situations that are impossible with man.

It may be impossible for you to change someone's heart.

It may be impossible for you to undo the past.

It may be impossible for you to repair everything by yourself.

It may be impossible for you to save your family through your own strength.

It may be impossible for you to carry every burden without breaking.

But not with God. The promise of God's power calls us to stop measuring life only by what we can see, control, afford, explain, or accomplish. It calls us to place the impossible before God.

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 man is possible with God."

Now write a brief prayer:

Closing Summary

Mark 10:27 is a promise for every man who has reached the edge of his own ability. Jesus tells the truth: with man, this is impossible. But He does not stop there. He turns our eyes toward God. The lesson is not that men should stop being responsible, disciplined, faithful, or strong. The lesson is that even the strongest man still needs God.

Human strength has limits.
God's power has none.
Human effort cannot save.
God's grace can.
Human hands cannot fix everything.
God's hands are still able.

So we do not place our final confidence in money, position, reputation, experience, or willpower. We place our confidence in the living God.

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.