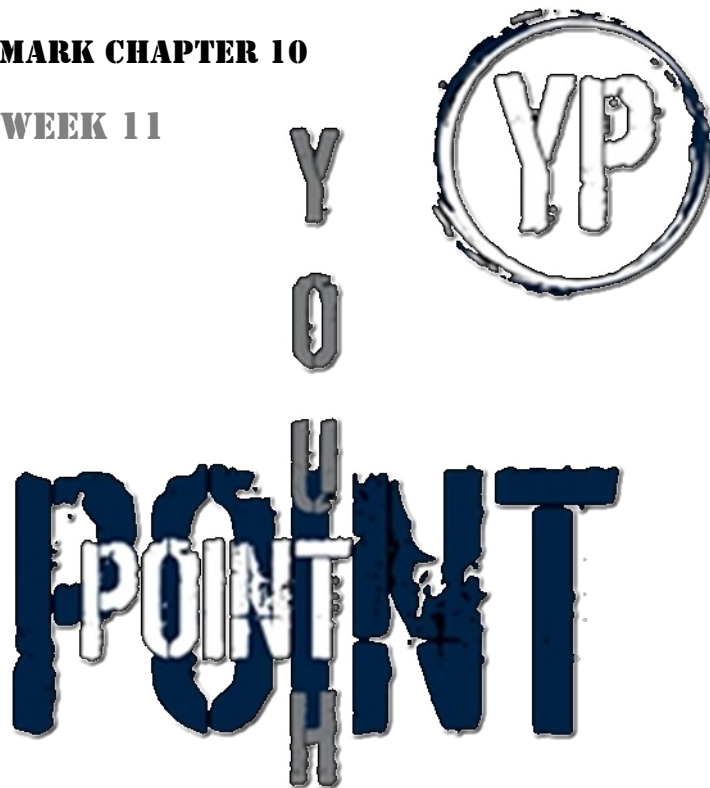




MARK CHAPTER 10

WEEK 11



Week 11 — Mark 10

Day 1

This chapter has it all—marriage, kids, money, death, etc. This chapter has more teaching than others we have come across thus far, but it's a wealth of information and wisdom if we could only apply it.

Mark 10

And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them.

And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away." And Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. And he said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." 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." Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Week 11 — Mark 10

Day 1 continued

And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.”

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

Woah! So many stories, so much to learn all in one chapter!

- ◆ So, which story stood out the most?

- ◆ Given what is spoken about in this chapter, when you share the gospel with others, what is it that you should make sure they understand?

Week 11 — Mark 10

Day 2

Marriage per Jesus.

Okay maybe it's just me, but I also find this a bit ironic because well Jesus was single! He never got married, but He's God, He came to die for us, so He's excused. :-)
This is just one more time when Jesus gives it to the Pharisees, he knows that they are trying to test him and trying to get him to go against the law of Moses, but he one ups them, he goes to the origin of marriage, which Moses also spoke about.

Mark 10:1-12

And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them.

And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away." And Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. And he said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

Matthew 19:1-12

Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."

The disciples said to him, "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry." But he said to them, "Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it."

Week 11 — Mark 10

Day 2 continued

Two things to point out:

1 = what the last book in the Old Testament says about marriage and how God sees it.
FYI: Jesus is in Judea which = Judah = who does this:

Malachi 2:13-16

And this second thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. "For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless."

2 = how does God see us? How does God see His church? As His Bride. God doesn't give up on us. God doesn't say, you messed up on making dinner, or you didn't ace that test, or you didn't get all the chores done, so I'm going to divorce you. NO! God, says 'oh, well she's my bride and I love her'. We are the ones that are constantly committing adultery against God, yet He doesn't leave us, He doesn't forsake us. So, how could He condone divorce, if He himself is so totally against it because He would never do it. He would never leave us. So, that's practically what He's saying - that a man should never leave his wife and a wife should never leave her husband because they are one. Marriage unites a couple in a way that it's better for the person to die than to be divorced from them, but it's only our hardness of heart that allows for it to be. Thing is that divorce isn't a clean break like death is, death is easy compared to dealing with a divorce and God doesn't want that for us because He himself isn't capable of it.

Make sense?

So, what's the deal with sexual immorality - well it's one of those sins that we don't just commit externally, but we commit within, within our minds and souls, it's a sin that we commit on our bodies. Oh, but wait we are one body when married - they are no longer two but one - you can't separate that sin from yourself. Sexual immorality breaks that bond, breaks it in the bloodiest way possible, cause it's like tearing away your whole left half of your body to attach it to a whole other left half, that would be bloody right? It breaks the trust that is so crucial for a marriage.

Make sense?

Week 11 — Mark 10

Day 3

Kids are kewl!!!

Mark 10:13-16

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Matthew 19:13-15

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” And he laid his hands on them and went away.

Luke 18:15-17

Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

What’s up with the apostles? Why are they rebuking people for bringing kids to Jesus? Well, it could have been for many reasons, but most seem to think that they thought that Jesus was too overwhelmed to be bothered by kids. He was busy teaching and going from place to place and He was talking somewhat weird about dying and all. So, they just figured they would help out and lighten his load, get rid of a few whom they didn’t think had any reason to be around Jesus.

So, yeah they were wrong.

The thing is that Jesus loved kids, the kids don't seem to be seen running from him, but hanging out and running towards him. Jesus was - well Jesus. He would have been super compassionate and super joy-filled and super awesome to be around and kids they just know. Babies and kids have an ability to know who actually cares about them and who couldn’t care less. If He didn’t care, they wouldn’t have come to Him. But, He did.

Kids have an awesome ability to trust. Kids have to trust. They trust that their parents will provide for them, that they won’t go hungry, that they will have a roof over their heads, that they will have someone there to take care of them. That takes a lot of trust to just expect things to be done for you because of who is doing it all. God is the ultimate Father in which they could fully trust in and in which we should fully trust.

Week 11 — Mark 10

Day 3 continued

More about kids. . . they forgive. Have you ever thought about the fact of how short a kid's memory is? Something happens, you mess up and drop them or injure them in some way and they forgive you for it and they forget it. They don't hold grudges because of how fully they are able to forgive and forget. That's how we should be with those in our lives, but most of the time we aren't. We hold grudges, we don't want to forgive, we don't want to forget what such and such has done to us, but that's not how it should be.

Then there are all the other aspects of kids which are so super kewl. Kids just rule.

There is no pretense with them, okay yeah they like to play pretend, but they are who they are and they don't pretend to be anything other than that which they are. They aren't scared of asking questions, well at least not until they get older, because they know that they don't know and they don't care, they just want an answer. There's no "I can't ask that because what will they think of me?" with a kid. They are humble enough to know that they don't know and ask.

So, yeah that's why Jesus puts so much emphasis on entering His kingdom like a kid.

Yet, what do most people do to kids?

They despise them, they look down upon them, they think that they aren't worthy.

But, how did Jesus look at them?

He thought that they were the ones to be imitated.

How do you see kids?

Do you have tons of kids in your life?

Do you see them just as an annoyance or ones to love?

Do you take the time to serve the kids that you are in contact with?

The thing is that kids can't repay you, they can't really do anything for you, but boy do they know how to love and loving them because of how you love Jesus will bring a joy to your life that can't be described.

Week 11 — Mark 10

Day 4

Rich, young, and foolish.

Mark 10:17-31

And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” 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.” Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.” Peter began to say to him, “See, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Matthew 19:16-30

And behold, a man came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” The young man said to him, “All these I have kept. What do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” Then Peter said in reply, “See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. But

Week 11 — Mark 10

Day 4 continued

Luke 18:18-30

And a ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’” And he said, “All these I have kept from my youth.” When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, “How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” But he said, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.” And Peter said, “See, we have left our homes and followed you.” And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life.”

So, what’s the deal with this guy? Well, he was all law and not faith. Unlike the kids from yesterday’s section that come in faith cause that’s what kids do they go to Him in faith, this rich, young guy comes to Him in law. He comes saying that he had done everything right, that he had been good, that he hadn’t done this and that he hadn’t done that, but what had he done??? Had he served, had he given his time, had he given of his money, had he helped anyone out? It’s not just about not doing all the stuff that we aren’t supposed to do, but about doing good.

James 4:17

So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

But, then it’s not just about doing good, it’s about Jesus. Jesus’ grace, Jesus’ mercy on our lives because we can’t do it. We can’t save ourselves, if we could have done enough good works, if we could have sacrificed enough, if we could have not sinned enough, then what’s the point? If we could have done it, then why did we need Jesus? The thing is that the only reason that He came is that we couldn’t do it! We can’t! Only He is perfect, only He was the perfect - spotless Lamb of God that could save us.

Week 11 — Mark 10

Day 5

Really!!!!????!! Like Seriously????!?!?!?

Mark 10:32-45

And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.”

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Matthew 20:17-28

And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.”

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. And he said to her, “What do you want?” She said to him, “Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.” Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?” They said to him, “We are able.” He said to them, “You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.” And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Week 11 — Mark 10

Day 5 continued

Luke 18:31-34

And taking the twelve, he said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.” But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

Really! Come on! Jesus is talking about how He will be mocked, spit on, flogged, and killed, yet James and John have the gull to TELL not ask, BUT tell Jesus that they want Him to do what they want!?! COME ON!

These guys just don't get it. They don't get who they are talking too. They don't get who Jesus really is, cause if they did they wouldn't ask for such a thing. They would ask to just be at His feet, they would ask to just be able to behold His splendor.

Come on! These are the same guys that a chapter ago, SAW! They saw Him in His splendor, in His power, turn into that radiant white being that He is. THEY SAW!!

Yet, what!?! Really? Yeah, totally!!! Cause that's us.

We see, we hear, we know, yet do we treat Jesus as we ought or do we treat Him like a magic genie that's just around to solve our problems, and do our will? Do we treat God like He deserves to be treated? Do we see Him for who He is? The CREATOR of the universe, the ones who made us in our mother's womb, the one who knows everything about us, the one who gave it all up for us, the ONE! Do we see? Do we really treat Him like we see? Or are we like James and John wanting our own will? Wanting what we want regardless of the consequences?

We want an easy life. We want everyone to love us. We want it all.

But, Jesus doesn't promise that. Jesus promises that we will be persecuted, that trials will come, that the next minute of our lives isn't guaranteed, BUT that if we persevere in following Him, in trusting in Him, if we endure until the end we will one day be with Him in the end.

Are you willing to serve? Are you willing to be the least? Do you grasp it?

STAND in STRENGTH

We are to put on the full armor of God and seek Him because our time is short, but we are also to STAND. To STAND firm, to be COURAGEOUS!

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

How often do we live ready for battle, ready to go up against the devil and his schemes? How often do we live in light of how short our time is? How often do we STAND for what means everything to us? How often are we STRONG? How often are we COURAGEOUS?

God commands us to be strong and to be courageous, but how can we be? So often we feel weak, we feel like we can't do it, we can't stand up for God let alone ourselves. The thing is that He is our strength. He is our fortress. He is our rock. He tells us to be strong and courageous because He is. He is. He is, so we don't have to be. We just have to rely on Him.

I love David's cry in Psalm 18:1-3



*I love you, O Lord, my strength.
The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.*

A repeat of this is in 2 Samuel 22—It's David's Song of Deliverance.

David praised God for saving him, but he didn't just praise God for saving his soul - he praised God for saving him in the middle of battle. Battle after battle - David won, but he only won because he was going into battle to begin with, he was going in with God. We aren't to be people who are easily moved (*whether that be into sin or into a different mindset*) or who are indifferent to the world around us (*whether that mean our friends or strangers*).

We are to take a STAND! To take up our SWORD and SHIELD and GO! Go because HE IS our ROCK, our SHIELD, our STRENGTH!

