Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:
Salvation

Speaker:
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Date:
November 15th, 2026

Scriptures:
Mark 10:17–31

Theme: Listen to God's story to see through the lies and to receive his grace.

Introduction: In God's world, every great story must answer four basic questions: who is God (Theology Proper), who are we (Anthropology), what is wrong with the world (Hamartiology), and how can it be made right (Soteriology). Our sense of story changes throughout our lives, and we can easily overlook the centrality of God in life's story. The most destructive feature of the therapeutic is that it puts the self at the center. When considering soteriology, therapeutic psychology ultimately offers no salvation and therefore must be rejected.

There are only two stories, and Christians must choose wisely:

1. The Therapeutic Story
   - The primary goal of the therapeutic is a happier you, and its biggest category is mental health/normality.
   - When considering therapeutic definitions and assumptions, two questions must be asked: *By what standard?* And *says who?*
   - Because there is no God-awareness and no absolute standards in Therapeutic Psychology, it is ultimately hopeless. At the end of the day, you are left with a bunch of things to work on and no truly good news.
2. The Gospel Story
   - In Mark 10:17–31, Jesus discerns what is going on in the man's heart; the young man thinks he can merit eternal reward on the basis of his own behavior.
   - Jesus commanded him to do something that was impossible for him.
   - No human resource can make you right with God–with man, it is impossible.
   - The gospel story needs no human contribution. It is external to us and yet has been made available to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
   - The gospel says to you not "do!", but "done!".

Questions:

1. Where do you see the therapeutic influence of self-centeredness around you?
2. Where do you see self-centeredness in your own life?
3. How does the gospel story redeem and change your view of self in God's story?

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