

Week of February 19-25

This week's devotional-writer is Mark Kiburz. Mark serves on our Board of Elders and is currently pursuing his ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God.

IS SUPERMAN SAVED?

Scripture Reading: Read Mark Chapter 10

Superman, a.k.a. Clark Kent, was a clean cut, morally upright guy. He always did the right thing, helping people in their times of need. He is a model citizen, someone we can look up to. He is a guy that never did anything wrong. He is an imaginary character that young boys may try to emulate in their actions: running (ok flying) around in a red cape trying to save people. The young boys are acting the way they believe Superman would act. As idealistic people, we can sometime think our actions are enough to give us an identity.

In Mark 10, we see an interesting exchange between Jesus and a rich young man who approaches Jesus with the question of what he needed to do to inherit eternal life. Perhaps this young man felt that he could be good enough to meet the standard for salvation. Jesus meets him where he is at and quotes a number of the Ten Commandments. In response, the young man replied, *"Teacher, all these I have kept since I was a boy."* The text tells us that Jesus looked at him and loved him. He could tell the young man was earnest. He could also tell that something was holding him back though. Interestingly, when Jesus mentions the commandments he doesn't start with the first one, "You shall have no other gods before me." As we can see in the account, this was the problem. So, Jesus declares, *"Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."* (Jesus, by the way, is not implying that wealth, in and of itself is evil. It's not sinful to own money but it is sinful for money to own us. In this case, it did.) Sadly, the rich young ruler walked away. His wealth was his god and he wasn't willing to let it go for the kingdom. He wasn't willing to enter the kingdom on God's terms. He wanted it on his terms while holding on to his idol of money.

If we are to come to Jesus, we must surrender our worship of any other god and submit to the one true God. We must trust by faith in God's provision and come humbly as a child before Him since our works cannot earn us salvation. Again and again, the gospel confronts us with the fact that salvation is on God's terms through Jesus Christ. Even "Superman," if he were real and not a comic character, would need salvation because he couldn't be good enough to earn it on his own. Yes, even Superman would need to be saved!

Action Step & Prayer Focus: Through prayer, examine the areas in your life that might be works-centered rather than God-centered and approach God with the heart of a child to do His will in your life.

Take-a-way: *God is not a respecter of person's actions, but through Jesus, He is our REDEEMER.*