

Cross references and additional connections: Look these up!

- ❑ *Riches*: Matthew 13:22, Mark 4:19, Luke 1:53, 8:14, 14:12-14, 16:11-13, James 2:1-10, 5:1-5
- ❑ *What must I do*: Luke 10:25-28 and Acts 16:30-34
- ❑ *First will be last*: Matthew 19:30, 20:16, and Luke 13:30
- ❑ *For my sake*: Matthew 10:28, 10:22, 10:39, 19:29, Mark 8:35, Mark 13:13
- ❑ *Trials and persecutions as blessings*: James 1:1-4ff, Matt. 5:10-16

Questions for reflection:

- ❖ Do you depend absolutely on the Lord for redemption?
 - Think of ways you have not loved God with your whole heart and confess your need of Him alone to save you.
- ❖ As people living in a prosperous country, we have to make sure that our standard of living does not become our idol. What comforts would Jesus have you surrender for the sake for the sake of the kingdom?
- ❖ When sharing the gospel with others, how important is it that we share that we, ourselves, are totally dependent on the grace of God for our redemption- rather than our own merit?
 - Matt 16:24-26

Looking Forward: Mark 10:32-45

Gospel of Mark

Responding to the Messiah



Mark 10:17-31

The Rich Young Ruler

Looking Back: Mark 10:1-16

List ways we, as Americans, are like the rich young ruler...

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Loving God with your actions

- List 3 ways that you can store up treasures in heaven this week.
 - After this week, reflect on how you can put those things into more regular practice.
- What good work could you do this week for a neighbor, family or church member, or non believer?
 - Mark 10:30

Loving God with your heart

It's easy to look down on the rich young ruler because of his inability to let go of his earthly possessions. In many ways though, this young man had shown more devotion to God than many of us ever have. The problem is he tried to come to God on his own terms, not God's terms.

- ❑ Ask yourself, is there anything in your life that you couldn't let go of for the sake of the Kingdom? Maybe, like the rich young ruler, it's earthly possessions. Maybe it's family/relationships, or maybe it's your job/career.
- ❑ While God may not at this moment be asking you to give up these things, check your heart to see where it truly lies. Is it with temporary things of this world, or is it set fast in the kingdom to come?

Loving God with your mind

- Rich people are often esteemed, respected, and admired by society. There is a natural (and even biblical) inclination to believe that the righteous will be prosperous, and therefore the prosperous are righteous, blessed by God because of

their righteousness. Conversely, the poor are often outcast and excluded by society. Given this perspective, the disciples response (v 26) to Jesus' statement in v 25 seems natural.

- However, the rich man is not named in this story. Typically, people not given names are viewed as unimportant. What does this communicate about Jesus' view of wealthy people?
- Wealth does not make a person a citizen of Jesus' Kingdom. "How hard it is ... to enter the Kingdom of God" is repeated in verses 23 and 24. Have you ever dwelt on this truth?

Want to look deeper? Did you know...

- Jesus Circus- We've seen throughout Mark that people are coming to Jesus to see the show or what they can "get" from Jesus. The Rich Young Ruler is the pinnacle of this type of thinking. He's "achieved" everything else and wants his "Jesus pin" to put another notch in his belt. That's not what the kingdom is about. Instead, sacrificial living is the way of the Kingdom. It's not about status. Spend some time scanning through the book and see if you can find every member of the "Jesus Circus" and what they wanted from Jesus.
- Wealth, status, and knowledge can be very good things that - rather than keep you from full devotion to God - can help you do work in the kingdom of God. Still, though these things aren't inherently evil, idolatry is. It is easy to put our trust and our *faith* in what we can physically measure (such as wealth or good works) without even realizing it. Look into passages

where Jesus talks about idolatry. How does it hinder one's relationship with God?