

American Idols: Success

Matthew 19:16-22

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." - Matthew 19:21

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

How would you define a successful life for yourself?

In what areas of your life would you say you are most successful?

Besides family and home, what is one "possession" you would have a very hard time letting go of?

In our passage of Scripture today we see a young man who asked a very good question - "What must I do to have eternal life?" And as we look into who he was there are a lot of ways he was on the right track. But Jesus uncovered one thing that is wrong in many of our lives today. We, like the rich young ruler, are blinded to God by our worship of success, bowing to the glory it brings today at the sake of missing out on glory in eternity.

Read Matthew 19:16-22 together. The first thing that happens when we worship success is **WE DON'T RECOGNIZE JESUS AS LORD.** (v.16)

What would happen if we didn't recognize our boss at work as "the BOSS?" How does this apply to seeing God as God in our life?

What is the difference in seeing Jesus as Savior, and seeing Him as LORD?

If you are being honest, who is Lord of your life? What things do you find yourself holding onto in worship instead of Jesus?

The next thing that happens when we worship success is **WE DON'T RECOGNIZE OUR OWN FAULTS.** Read vv.17-21 again.

Pastor Erik mentioned that "obedience is surrender." Jesus said in **John 14:15** "If you love Me you will keep My commandments." Examine the 10 Commandments in **Exodus 20:1-17**. Where have you staggered in the race of obedience?

How is God working in your life right now to correct those areas of disobedience?

Is clinging to wealth and/or possessions an issue for you and your family? Is it keeping you from being obedient to Jesus? Explain.

Allow time to share stories of God's faithfulness when you relinquished control of your success, future, or finances to Him.

Pastor Erik gave the example of someone running a race dressed in a snow suit and galoshes. Read **Hebrews 12:1-2** and take inventory of your life. Make a list below of the things weighing you down and consuming your time, energy, and resources. Which ones could you eliminate or reduce to run the race well and follow Jesus?

The final thing that happens when we worship success is **WE WALK AWAY FROM THE TRUTH**. Read **v.22** again.

Why did the young ruler walk away at Jesus response? If Jesus asked the same of you, what would your reaction be? Explain.

Read the rest of the story in **Matthew 19:27-30** as Jesus addressed the Disciples. What awaits those who live unselfishly?

Read Proverbs 27:23-24. The young man had only a short-term outlook. How can we plan practically for the long term when it comes to our eternity and passing that legacy to our family?

Pray:

As you close your meeting time pray the Lord would give you wisdom in rearranging your life to revolve around Him instead of yourself. Pray that His priorities would become yours and that you would be mindful each day of the cost of following Jesus. Ask God to release you of the hold your possessions have on you in order to free you for worship of Almighty God.

Connect:

Listen to the song "Open Hands" by Matt Papa on YouTube. Think of a practical way you could use your possessions this week to bring God glory instead of your own.