

Matthew 19:16-30

Warming Up

1. What is the most valuable thing you have ever owned as a kid, teen, adult? Why is/was it so valuable? What did you do to protect it?

Knowing the Gospel...

2. Read Luke 10:25-37. Compare and contrast:

- The initial questions asked of Jesus: What were the assumptions behind the questions? (Luke 10:16, Matt. 19:16)
- The answers Jesus gives to each: Why do you think he gave the answers he gave?
- What do you think these men were really looking for from Jesus?
- How does Jesus expose these men's inability to be perfectly righteous?

3. Why do you think the disciples were so surprised when Jesus said, "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.?" How may their perspective have been similar to the rich man's?

4. If salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone (Eph. 2:8-9, Luke 5:20, John 1:12-13, 3:16, 20:31, Acts 4:12, 16:31, Rom. 9:30-33, Rom. 10:9-10), then why does Scripture place such an emphasis on good works and purity of character? Check out these passages and discuss: Luke 6:27-36, Gal. 6:9, Eph. 2:10, Heb. 13:16, James 2:14-26, 2 Pet. 1:5-11, Ps. 37:3

Living the Gospel...

5. In the parable of the rich young ruler, Jesus exposes the man's true god—ie. What is more important to him than following Jesus. What would you consider as some of western culture's little "g" gods? (Western Hemisphere). What about western Christianity's little "g" gods?

6. How do you know if something has become an idol in your life? What are some telltale signs? How do you identify something in your life that has become more meaningful than following Jesus? What Idols do you struggle with? When do they tend to show up?

React to this statement: "when you "pull your emotions up by the roots," as it were, sometimes you will find your idols clinging to them."---Tim Keller (Counterfeit Gods)

Check out this link for a very helpful article by Tim Keller on identifying false gods in our lives: <http://lhim.org/blog/2012/10/02/tim-keller-identifying-idols/>

7. Share with the group how you have seen the power of Jesus and the gospel make real change possible in your life from salvation to transformation into the image of Christ. How has he changed, been changing you?

Telling the Gospel...

9. Are you living an honest life in front of unsaved friends? A life that recognizes you need grace and mercy and the only thing that makes you acceptable to God is what Jesus has done? Or do you tend to advertise that you have it all together and your morality is what makes you a Christian? (we can do this intentionally or unintentionally).

10. Take up the challenge to pray for someone in your life that you know is apathetic or even antagonistic towards Jesus. Take up the stiffer challenge to tell them you love them and are praying for them.

Next Week: "What the Bible says (and doesn't say) about homosexuality"

