

# Most Important Question

## Mark 10.17-22

Most important question: will you surrender to Jesus?

- Hearers with no faith: no pressure, but no easing of the claim
- Hearers with faith: valid question re: segments of life we call our own

### Good Start (v.17-20)

- He came humbly (v.17)
  - The only way to approach God (1 Peter 5.5-6)
- He came honestly (v.18-20)
  - His question revealed his heart – much like ours and everybody’s
  - He wanted to earn his way in with his performance (“inherit” – “kept / guarded”) but his question shows he carries doubt / is missing something
  - He thought he had God’s blessing because of His possessions – but wealth isn’t always a blessing, it can be a danger too (cf. v.23-27, 1 Tim 6.7-9)
    - Talent – fulfillment – health – stability – promotion – possessions (what we want and get we can give God credit for and then blame Him when it goes away or fails)
  - In ministry to others (or in our own souls), if we cannot come honestly to God then He will not deal with us

### Terrible Finish (v.21-22)

- He could not hear the motivation of Jesus
  - Do you have room for a God who can say hard things in love?
  - Do you have room for a God who has goodness in His heart for you? (Ps. 25.1-9)
  - You will not surrender if either answer is “no”
- He could not see the target of Jesus
  - It wasn’t behavior – that would be too easy (He wants to transform us into those who obey)
  - It was his heart – building into you the kind of heart that He can entrust with power to rule with Him forever
    - No other gods before Him
    - No segment of life untouched
- He could not hear the (real) command of Jesus
  - The goal wasn’t liquidation – it was following Jesus (the very thing for which he was made) – spiritual cholesterol (possessions, power, position, prestige, people, pleasure, performance)
- He could not see the treasure in Jesus
  - He has spoken clearly to this – it’s not the money (“give it away”), it’s surrender
  - He has modeled this (Gethsemane)

## Questions for Discussion

1. Who is the most humble person you have met or know? What is it about them (words, actions, demeanor, etc.) that make you see them as humble?
2. Reread 1 Peter 5.1-8. Listen for Peter's instructions about coming humbly and honestly before God. How does he write about them? What kind of importance does he put on them? What does he specifically command (or not) that caught your eye?
3. In the sermon, we stated that the Rich Young Ruler was spiritually blind and deaf and therefore missed out on what Jesus was doing. Trent asked the question: "Do you have room in your world for a God who can say hard things to you and do so in love?" Which do you struggle more with believing: there is a God who can say hard things or a God who says hard things in love? What do you think is the hardest thing God has ever asked you to do?
4. In the sermon, we also stated that Jesus was after his heart (not his money). How is that evident in the story? How did Jesus help apply that to Peter and others (v.23-27)?
5. If Jesus came into the room and asked to speak with you a moment, what area of your life do you think He would say to you, "One thing you still lack...?" Where are you experiencing His challenge to unconditional surrender? Where do you need prayer in order to live that out? What lie are you believing that is keeping you from it?