

The Rich Young Ruler

Sermon - May 2, 2021

Pastor

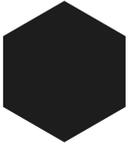
Ross Lester

Text

Matthew 19:16-29

Discussion Questions

1. Before we get too far into our questions for this week, let's start with remembering the topic: stewarding money and possessions. For many of us, the topic of money can be uncomfortable for a variety of differing reasons. What feelings and memories do you immediately experience when confronted with this topic? How has this been an area of maturity that has been encouraging or challenging to you over the years?
2. The rich young ruler was committed to following the law of God in almost every way. When Jesus challenged him by saying, *"If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me,"* He was getting at the root of the young ruler's idolatry. This was an area that it cost the ruler more than he was willing to sacrifice to follow Jesus. Why do you think it was unbearable for the ruler to choose Jesus? What is the warning to us today?
3. All of us, like the rich young ruler, desire to have a full and meaningful life, zoe, as it is referred to in the Scriptures. God desires for us to have this life too, but there can be many temptations to look for it in all the wrong places. If you look at the way you spend your money and pursue possessions, what does it reveal about where you think the abundant life is truly found?
4. How is God revealing areas of your heart that may be governed more by the love of money and possessions than by Him? What specific areas do you see yourself neglecting to store up treasures in heaven and instead settling for the temporary treasures of this life that will rot and corrode?
5. God makes us the promise that we will not be disappointed by our faithfulness to build His kingdom with our money and possessions instead of an earthly kingdom. He also promises to richly provide all that we need for life and godliness because He loves us. Paul tells the rich of



this age to not set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but instead they are to be rich in good works and to be generous and share with others. What opportunities to do good come to mind when you read these verses? How can you invest your money in eternal things, knowing this life is just an opportunity for temporary stewardship?

Prayer

Father, you alone are where true happiness, joy, and contentment lie. Money is a gift and a tool for us to enjoy you more and invest in the things You love. Help us when we lose sight of the real purpose of our money and show us how to untangle our hearts from worshiping the gift rather than the Giver. Give us compassionate and sacrificial hearts that invest in things that will not pass away. Let us see in eternity all that was accomplished through extravagantly generous hearts not ruled by temporary wealth, but by the God of unparalleled value.