

Members' Handout - Jesus and the Rich (Mark 10:17-31)

Series: Encounters with Jesus



These CG Resources are meant to help our CGs facilitate a study of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. Refer to the Summary, Fallen Condition and Good News sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused. For a deeper dive into the passage, refer to the text notes on the passage.



Interpretation

1. How does the man respond to Jesus' mention of the commandments, and what does this reveal about his understanding of righteousness?
2. How does Jesus challenge the man's idea of what is "good"?
3. Why did the man go away disheartened and sorrowful? What did he find hard to do?
4. Why does Jesus say that it is difficult for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God? Consider the previous unit Mark 10:13-16. How might the little children contrast with the rich man?

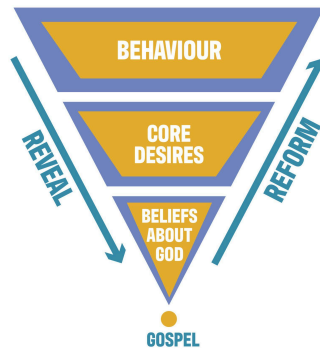
Fallen Condition Focus

5. In this passage, the man holds on tightly to his wealth and material possessions. Money can be the means to the following things:
 - Identity and status (e.g. money makes us powerful and respected in society)
 - Provision for our daily needs and quality of life (e.g. meeting basic needs, being responsible for family, having enough to retire etc)
 - Comfort, joy and satisfaction (e.g. providing us with the kind of lifestyle that we think we need to be satisfied, rested and happy)

Which of the above most describes what we value and desire money for?

6. Take a look at the triangle below. Placing what we value in Q5 in the “behaviour” box, consider: what might be some core desires at the heart of what we value? What might that reveal about what we find difficult to believe about God?

Some core desires to consider: Power, Control, Approval, and Comfort.



Personal Renewal

7. The disciples inferred that it was impossible for anyone to be saved because even the rich could not again advantage to enter the kingdom of God. But Jesus states that salvation is only possible through God. How does the eternal life that God gives us compare to the life we seek from the things money can provide?

Response

8. Jesus responds with love and compassion to a man who thought he had it all (10:21), instead of self-righteousness and judgment. Consider those we know who do not know Jesus. Who in our lives might be similar to this man? Pray about how we can share the gospel with them with love and compassion.