

It is easy to assume that wealth is an indicator of God's favor, when in reality, it can be an obstacle to faith. Today, as in Jesus' day, wealth may be viewed as a reward for keeping the commandments or living a good life. Jesus uses hyperbole to illustrate the difficulty of trusting God more than money. It's harder than getting a camel to pass through the eye of a needle!

The disciples understood Jesus' statement to indicate it was impossible for the rich to be saved. And since they commonly understood money as a sign of God's favor, they feared for those less favored by God (e.g. the poor) to be saved. But Jesus assures them that with God anything is possible, and anyone rich or poor can be saved through Christ's death and resurrection.

*Have you witnessed or experienced the conversion of someone who appeared to be a lost cause, or someone who had so much wealth didn't realize their need for God? If so share a little about the changes you saw in that person.*

### WRAP-UP

The story of Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler, found in three Gospels, reveals a man who, despite having wealth and status, still longed for something more—eternal life. When he asked Jesus what he must do to inherit it, Jesus pointed him to the commandments, but more importantly, He addressed the man's heart. Jesus challenged him to give up his wealth, not as a punishment, but as a way to free him from what truly held his allegiance. The man's unwillingness to let go showed that he trusted in his riches more than in God. This account forces us to examine our own hearts, questioning whether we too view salvation as transactional or whether we're truly ready to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. Jesus' statement that it's hard for the wealthy to enter the kingdom shocked His listeners—and still challenges assumptions today about wealth, blessing, and faith.

### MEMORY VERSE

*21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." - Mark 10:21 NIV*

Challenge –

Our first reaction to this story is probably “God would never ask me to give up everything.”, but that is exactly what God asks of us; Complete trust and surrender. Are you willing to ask God what you need to release in order to follow Him whole-heartedly? And if He tells you, will you do it?

## One Thing You Lack Gospel of Mark Ch. 10 - Week 3

### INTRODUCTION

The account of Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler is found in three of the Gospels. Here was a man who presumable had everything he could want, but his soul was still restless. He had a question for Jesus, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus not only addresses what the commandments say, He addresses the condition of the man's heart as well. His concluding statement about barriers faced by the wealthy trying to enter heaven was shocking to those who heard it. It can still challenge our foundational assumptions about wealth and faith.

### Ice Breaker

*Can you name all 10 commandments from Exodus 20:1-17?*

### Key Passages

*Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." - Mark 10:21 NIV*

### STUDY QUESTIONS

#### 1. What do you really want?

*17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

*- Mark 10:17 NIV*

*18 A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

*- Luke 18:18 NIV*

*16 Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"*

*- Matthew 19:16 NIV*

If you ask three people to describe an accident that they witnessed, you will find each gave a unique set of details. The same is true of the Gospels.

*What do you notice is the same and what is different about*  
*-How the man addresses Jesus?*  
*-What he needs to do?*  
*-What will result if he does what is required?*

*In light of Luke's account, how what would you surmise was the man's motive? How does this compare to the Philippian jailer who asked Paul, "What must I do to be saved?"*

*19 and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." - Acts 8:19 NIV*

Sometimes we can seek the right thing for the wrong reason. In the book of Acts, Simon the Sorcerer saw the power of the Holy Spirit and offered money to be given the power to impart the Spirit to others. He wasn't seeking the Holy Spirit; he wanted to wield the power.

*The rich ruler probably inherited his wealth and position. Why would he also want to get or inherit an eternal life? How is that the right thing for the wrong reason?*

Ultimately our salvation and our eternal life are based on our relationship to Jesus. But the rich ruler was yet to grasp that reality. He viewed it as transactional- what do I do so that I get what I want?

## 2. Keep the Commandments

The ten commandments given to Moses on Mount Sinai fall into two categories, the first four are about man's relationship to God (have no Gods before me, make no idols, don't misuse God's name, keep the Sabbath) and the next six are about man's relationship to man (honor your parents, don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't give false witness, don't covet).

Here are the commandments Jesus named as they are given in the Gospels.

*You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'"*  
- Mark 10:19 NIV

*"Which ones?" he inquired. Jesus replied, " 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, 19 honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"*  
- Matthew 19:18-19 NIV

*20 You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'"* - Luke 18:20 NIV

*In the three Gospel accounts, which of the Ten Commandments are consistently cited and what other commandments are found? Why do you think Jesus would name these commandments?*

*"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone. - Mark 10:18 NIV*

If we apply simple if-then logic to Jesus' response to the man, Jesus may have been hinting at His deity when He asked, "Why are you calling me good?"

**If** no one is good but God and **if** you call Jesus good, **then** you are calling Jesus God.      Or      God=Good, Jesus = Good, Jesus =God

## 3. What are you trusting in?

*20 "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." 21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 22 At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. - Mark 10:20-22 NIV*

*20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*  
- Matthew 6:20-21 NIV

Jesus had answered the question that was asked and revealed a much more important point. In Mark 6:21 Jesus shows us it's not what good things you do it is where you've anchored your heart that really counts.

*In verse 20 what does his response seem to indicate this man was relying on for his eternal life? In verse 22 he realized that was a false hope. The rich man's treasure was on earth, and Jesus called him to release it all, to love others as demonstrated by giving to the poor, and to trust Him above wealth by following Him. Jesus doesn't ask everyone to sell everything, but He doesn't want money to have a grip on anyone's heart. What are some warning signs that you have a problem with trusting in money more than trusting in God?*

*23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" 24 The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." 26 The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" 27 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."*  
- Mark 10:23-27 NIV