



"Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'"

"Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

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."

At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Welcome Honesty

Mark 10:17-22

Discussion Starter

- A. If you inherited a large sum of money, what would you do with the money? How would it change your life?
 - B. Have you ever been around someone who acted like they were something they were not? How did you, and others, react to this person? Why do you think they acted in this way?
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From today's lesson (There are two separate sections of scriptures referenced below. Groups may wish to focus on the parable, consider the narrative account, or compare and contrast what is taught in each.)

Read Mark 10:17-22 (and Luke 18:18-30) before answering the questions on this side of the sheet.

1. How would you describe this man?
2. What question does the man ask of Jesus?
 - a. How does Jesus' answer him?
 - b. What is the man's response? What could this response reveal about the man?
 - c. What was the man's follow-up question? Why would the man ask this question?
3. How did Jesus view this man?
 - a. What is Jesus' response to his follow-up question? What does Jesus tell him to do?
 - b. How does the man react to Jesus' directions?
 - c. Why would he react in this manner?
 - d. Compare this to his response to Jesus' first set of directions. What is the difference?
4. What is Jesus saying about entering the kingdom of God?
 - a. Why is difficult for one who is rich to enter?
 - b. Why do you think Jesus' disciples were amazed by what he said?
 - c. What question is asked by the disciples? What is Jesus' answer? How does this relate?
5. What is Jesus saying about entering the kingdom of God?
 - a. What does Peter declare? How does Jesus respond?
 - b. What is meant by the statement concerning the "first will be last, and the last first"?

Read Luke 18:9-14 before answering the questions on the back side of the sheet (below).

6. How does Luke introduce this parable? What does that tell you?
7. How would you describe these two men? What would be a contemporary equivalent?
8. Why would someone feel like the Pharisee?
 - a. Is there anything wrong about the actions he described (fast, give, etc.)?
 - b. Is it wrong to condemn the specific practices he addressed in his prayer?
 - c. What was wrong with his prayer?
9. What is different about the tax collector?
 - a. Who was more honest in their prayer?
 - b. What does it mean to be justified before God?
 - c. Why would the tax collector have been justified and the Pharisee not?
10. How did this parable relate to Luke's introduction?

Group Application

1. Have you ever been the person who acted like you were someone that you are not? Why?
2. Are there times when you struggle with authenticity?
3. What personal actions or attitudes do you find yourself relying on for righteousness?
4. Why is it difficult to be honest (authentic) about who we are, what we feel, and what we do?
5. How can the group pray for you in the coming week so that you might be the person of honesty, integrity, and authenticity God has called you to be?

Invest and Invite

Each Community Group is being asked to invest time (in prayer, meditation, and preparation) and then to invite their family, friends, neighbors, and other associates to take part in activities and events which are designed to open doors and share with them the truth of salvation in Christ. It is not about our strength. We plant and water, but it is God who does the amazing work of changing us and others so that we might grow up in Christ.