



NO SERMON NOTES THIS WEEK

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE ON THE NEXT PAGE

ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *June 3-8, 2024*

INTRODUCTION

We all have questions that we'd like answered from other people... maybe even from God. A man steeped in earthly possessions posed a question to Jesus, and Jesus' answer still speaks to us today. This week we're diving into Mark 10:17-22 and Jesus' interaction with the so-called "rich young ruler."

Monday: Mark 10:17

"What must I do...?"

We've all started a question like this, hoping to get an answer outlining the minimum requirement we have to reach. No one is looking for an extensive, 30-step approach. And the "rich young ruler" in this passage wasn't, either. Do you often feel like following God is a chore? If so, how do you handle it? If not, what makes it easy to be a follower?

Tuesday: Mark 10:18-20

"All these have kept..."

The "rich young ruler" at this point must have felt relieved. Jesus had just rattled off a list of things that had to be done to inherit eternal life and the man had met all of the requirements! When have you felt relieved that you'd reached the end of something... only to find out that there was more to the story?

Wednesday: Matthew 6:19-21

We've all had something important to us be damaged, lost, or destroyed. Maybe it was something we'd worked hard to obtain, something we'd spent a lot of time creating, or something irreplaceable because of its sentimental value. Losing an item like that can be heartbreaking. Yet Jesus says in this passage that our most important things aren't our temporal treasures, but, rather, the eternal treasures we "store up... in heaven." How do we strike a balance between investing in earthly possessions and investing in the promise of the next life? Are they compatible?

Thursday: Mark 10:21

"One thing you lack"

Jesus tells the "rich young ruler" that he's lacking one thing, then tells him to sell all he has and give it to the poor. Jesus doesn't explicitly say what it is that the man is lacking; but another passage – Psalm 34:9-10 – says "those who fear the Lord lack nothing." Do you think the man's riches prevented him from fearing – or being fully in awe of – the Lord? Do you find that possessions can be obstacles to connection with others? Obstacles to connections with God?

Friday: Mark 10:21-22

It's easy to imagine that Jesus' words – his presence – would be enough to be completely convincing... that maybe 2000 years of distance has numbed the power and words, but those who were actually there must have been in constant awe. But this story of the "rich young ruler" shows how false that thinking is. Upon hearing the requirements of following Jesus, "the man's face fell" and "he went away sad." He wasn't willing to trade what he had for what Jesus was offering. When is a time that you found it hard – or maybe even refused – to accept following God because of what you'd have to give up?

MOVING FORWARD

"Jesus looked at him and loved him."

Despite the man's shortcomings, Jesus still loved him. Despite our shortcomings, Jesus loves us, too. As we wrap up this week of reflecting on this passage, take time to consider what it means to put our care for others and our faith in Jesus ahead of our desire for the "treasures on earth [that] moths and vermin destroy" (Matthew 16:19, NIV). And consider someone in your life who may still be working on developing their own relationship with Jesus and how you can still "look at [that person] and love [them]" despite their shortcomings.