



Key References:

Mark 10:17 (ESV) – And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“We strategically measure ourselves to the culture around us. When we want a nicer house, car, or bigger bank account we always compare ourselves to people who have more. We’re always in the bottom of our comparison bubble.” – Wes on Sunday

Mark 10:23–25 (ESV) – And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “**How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!**”²⁴ And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, “**Children, how difficult 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 a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.**”

“I believe we repent of how we have used the good things in our life in the place of God” – Wes on Sunday

Luke 19:5–10 (ESV) – And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “**Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.**”⁶ So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully.⁷ And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.”⁸ And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.”⁹ And Jesus said to him, “**Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.**”¹⁰ **For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.**”

***A family in Canada who earns \$80,000/year are in the top 8% of the worldwide earners. While families who earn \$216,000 and up are in the top 1% worldwide*

1 – WHO IS RICH?

What does it mean to be rich? Would you say that you’re rich? What about according to the rest of Nanaimo, Canada, and the whole world?**

Read Mark 10:17-22. **Why did the rich young ruler turn away from Jesus? What our reasons of self-sacrifice do people turn away from the real Jesus today?**

Read Mark 10:23. **Will it be harder for first-world people to enter The Kingdom than third-world? What is Jesus really trying to teach here?**

Read Mark 10:24-27. **Discuss the heart issues Jesus is teaching on here.**

Has money ever been a vice, or a tool for power, recognition, or control for you?

2 – IDOLIZING VIRTUE

Is idolatry something you’ve ever considered as a real issue in your life?

Wes said: *“I don’t think Jesus is saying that if you’re rich or bad and if you’re poor you’re good. I think he’s saying that there’s something radically wrong with every single one of us. But power and money have an ability to blind us to it.”* **What is that ability that wealth has on us? And, why therefore is it difficult for a wealthy person to follow Jesus?**

Wes on Sunday said: *“The rich young ruler was so focused on everything he was doing right that he couldn’t see Jesus.”* **In what way is there a connection between someone’s wealth and their self-perceived virtue before God? How does this get between us & God?**

What are ways that we can use God as a means to an end?

3 – THE OTHER RICH MAN

Read Mark 10:28-31. **How does following Jesus cause us to leave certain things behind? How does Jesus say those things will be receive back? Do we North Americans have to leave behind much to follow Jesus?**

Read Luke 19:1-10. **Discuss all the ways that this rich man’s encounter with Jesus is so different. How did Zacchaeus’ perception of himself change his perception of Jesus?**

On what scale do you tend to measure your likeness to Jesus? How can we become more like Zacchaeus in our pursuit of Christ?