

Giving
Matthew 19:16-30
Next Steps

OPENING PRAYER:

God our Father, guide our hearts. Free us from ourselves. Teach us to be content in all circumstances. Even now, we are concerned about the money we do have, or the money we don't have. The things that we need and the things that we want constantly bombard us. But, today, we want to recognize that all we have is from you. You are our provider, and you know our needs better than even we know them. Teach us to be content in all circumstances. Free us from ourselves. Guide our hearts, Father. They are yours. Amen.

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree or disagree with in the sermon this week?
- Was there something new that you learned this week?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read Matthew 19:16-30.

- What are your initial thoughts on this passage?
- If salvation is not achieved by giving away possessions, why does Jesus give the young man the instructions in v. 21?
- What do you make of the disciples' astonishment in v. 25?
- In the parables, Jesus is often known to exaggerate. So in light of that fact, what is Jesus truly saying to you in v. 24? What do you see Jesus calling you to give up? How is Jesus calling you to live?
- Matthew 19:1-20:16 are a reversal of the world's values. What is God trying to teach you through these scriptures?

NEXT STEPS:

- What would it look like for you to begin to step up to giving 10%? What tangible actions could you take over the next 3 months? 6 months? 1 year?
- Take your credit card statement and highlight the consistent themes: (Pick one color for each category) restaurants/take out food, clothes, groceries, pharmacy, entertainment. What is your highest spending area? What does this say to you? Dave Ramsey says our check books reflect our values, what do your highlights say about your values?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Teach us, good Lord,
to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek for rest;
to labor and not to ask for any reward,
except that of knowing that we do your will;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. — Ignatius of Loyola (16th century)