

Identity

The Rich Young Ruler

MY VALUES



Introduction

This is the story of a young ruler who came to Jesus to ask what he could do to receive eternal life. He must have come from a rich family because he had “great wealth” at an early age. Jesus “threw him a curve” and asked him to sell everything and give the money to the poor.

The questionnaire below is going to ask you some hard questions. Get into groups of 4 and have someone read the Scripture out loud.

1. If the rich young man in this Bible story lived today, how would he dress?
 - sharp and conservative
 - in the latest far-out fashions
 - in jeans and a T-shirt
2. If this person came to your church, how would he be treated?
 - We would probably be impressed.
 - Our treasurer would be thrilled.
 - We would accept him as a person and not care at all about his money.
 - We would expect more out of him because of his money.
3. How do you feel about the rich young ruler?
 - sorry for him—He couldn't help it that he was rich.
 - disappointed in him—He walked away from God.
 - upset—Jesus should not have been so hard on him.
 - frustrated—Does this mean I have to give up everything I have, too?
4. What would you do if Jesus asked you to sell everything you had and give the proceeds to the poor?
 - have my hearing checked
 - compute my net worth and think about it
 - hold a garage sale this Saturday
 - increase my giving to the church
 - sadly walk away

THE RICH RULER

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

¹⁹"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. ²⁰You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.' "

²¹"All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said.

²²When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

²³When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth. ²⁴Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁶Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?"

²⁷Jesus replied, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

Luke 18:18–27

5. Being totally honest, what are your top three priorities in life now?
- a good time
 - good friendships
 - a good marriage / family
 - making lots of money
 - greater intimacy with God
 - having nice things
 - financial independence / security
 - being true to myself
 - developing my spiritual gifts
 - making a contribution to the world
 - other: _____

6. Right now, who influences you most on your values?
- my peers
 - my pastor / church
 - my parents / grandparents
 - my spouse / boyfriend / girlfriend
 - the media / TV
7. How much has your commitment to Jesus Christ and his way of life influenced your values?
- a lot
 - a little
 - not as much as I would like
 - not at all
8. Jesus knew that the young ruler's riches were a barrier between him and God. If Jesus were to evaluate your life, what would he say holds you back from being totally committed to God?
- wealth
 - apathy
 - habit or temptations
 - doubts about issues of faith
 - fear of being labeled a fanatic
 - other: _____
9. What do you need to do to store up "treasure in heaven"?
- Cut back on my lifestyle.
 - Invest more time in loving people and less in loving things.
 - Overhaul my priorities.
 - Talk to more people about Christ.
 - Spend more time at church.
 - Keep doing what I'm already doing.
 - other: _____
10. How would you like the group to pray for you?