The **RICH** Young Ruler

Matthew 19:13-30
Introduction

Kingdom Values: They are a reminder of the things that are important to God and should be to us.

• Humility
• Community
• Mercy and Forgiveness
• Marriage
• Singleness
• Children
“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”
Jesus loves little children and so should we.

• As parents, we are the primary teachers of our children. Discipleship begins in the home.
• As a church, if you are involved in our children’s ministry or youth ministry, you are doing a great work.
How do these verses fit with what follows?
The humility of the little children stands in sharp contrast to the rich young man who thought he could have it all and heaven too.
From a human perspective, it looked like he had it all.

• He was a rich man.
• He was a moral man.
• But something was still missing and he knew it was spiritual.

“Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”
I. THERE IS A LONGING IN EVERY HUMAN HEART TO KNOW GOD. VERSE 16
“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” Ecclesiastes 3:11
“God’s beautiful but tantalizing world is too big for us, yet its satisfactions are too small. Since we were made for eternity, the things of time cannot fully and permanently satisfy.”

NIV Footnote
People try to fill the void in their life with all kinds of things.

Blaise Pascal said, “There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ.”

Is there an emptiness in your heart?
II. THE WAY TO FIND MEANING AND PURPOSE IN LIFE IS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. VERSES 17-26
Jesus challenged his understanding of God. Jesus confronted him with the Law’s demands. Jesus put his finger on the obstacle that was holding him back – his wealth. The rich young ruler went away sad, because he was unwilling to part with it. His god was his money.
If we are to enter into heaven, we must come to Jesus with an undivided heart.

No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.” Luke 16:13

It is a call to absolute surrender.
The way of discipleship is the same for everyone. We must deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus.

How hard it is for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. “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.”

- A camel was the largest land animal in Palestine.
- A needle’s eye was the smallest opening.
- The point is it is impossible for anyone to be saved apart from God.
III. WHEN WE COME TO CHRIST, THERE IS GREAT REWARD.
VERSES 27-30
Peter asked, “What will there be for us?”

What Jesus promises is staggering.

• Houses, brothers, sisters...
• 100 times as much
• Eternal life

God will be no one’s debtor. What we gain far exceeds any sacrifice we will make.
“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”—But God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.”
I Corinthians 2:9-10
“But many who are first will be last.”
Stay humble.
“Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither.”

C. S. Lewis
Conclusion

What will you choose?
The call to follow Jesus is a call to surrender everything to him.