Introduction


What did he think was the measure of life?

- Harvest large crop.
- Build bigger barns.
- Achieve financial security.
- Eat, drink and be merry.
- Remember not to die.

The object of life according to Jesus is very simple.

**Be Rich Toward God!**

That leads to a very different way to keep score.

I. The person who is rich toward God loves God above everything else. Matthew 22:37-38

This is the first and greatest commandment.

It is why God created us.

God created us because he wants to be with us.

We will never get anywhere in the Christian life if we don’t put God first in our heart.

It starts with surrendering our life to Jesus.

How do we know if we have done that?

“**Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.**” John 14:21

The proof is in our obedience.

II. The person who is rich toward God loves people. Matthew 22:39-40

This is the second greatest commandment.

Love is more than a feeling. It shows itself in action.

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother in need
but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” I John 3:16-18

Love is the distinguishing mark of a believer according to Jesus.

“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:35

The greatest thing we can do for another person is to help them know Christ.

III. The person who is rich toward God has adopted God’s values as his own. Matthew 20:20-28

How were the disciples measuring success?

The world measures success through comparisons, competition and climbing above someone else.

Jesus said, “’Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.” Matthew 20:26

We are to follow Jesus’ example.

“Your attitude is to be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped;
7 but made himself nothing taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:5-11

Conclusion

The way to be rich toward God is to:

• Love God – Total Surrender.
• Love People – Help them know Jesus.
• Be a servant – Follow Christ’s example.