

FOLLOW ME

The Gospel of Matthew

WEEK 5 - THE RICH MAN OVERVIEW

In this final message of "Follow Me: Part II," we will explore the famous passage of the rich man who "went away sad" when invited by Jesus to sell his possessions and follow him. The story is a stark reminder that we are invited to surrender our *lives* to Jesus, not just go through the religious motions. The words of the martyred missionary Jim Elliot ring true here. "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." What are we willing to surrender to Christ in our trust that he will renew our lives for eternity?

Everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life.

Matthew 19:29

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does being "rich" mean to you?
2. Read Matthew 19:16-30.
 - a. What was preventing the man from completely surrendering to Jesus?
 - b. How did Jesus see the position of the man's heart? (see Matthew 6:21)
 - c. What was Jesus really offering the man? (see also Matthew 6:19)
3. Is it bad to have wealth? (see also Proverbs 23:4-5, Matthew 6:24, Proverbs 10:22)
4. How did material wealth in Jesus' time compare to material wealth today?
5. Do you think it is possible for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven today? Why or why not?
6. What would it look like to live unattached to material things?
7. Jose Luis asked us to examine our hearts. Consider the following questions and share with your group, if you are willing.
 - a. Am I aware that nothing belongs to me and that I have taken hold of what is not mine?
 - b. Do I value my possessions more than my relationship with God?
 - c. Are my possessions a blessing or a barrier to following Jesus?
8. How can you measure your desire to follow Jesus?
9. Are you ready to give everything to follow Jesus?