



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“Matthew 19:16-30” on April 22th and 25th, 2021

CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed from Matthew 19:1-12 affect your week?

DISCOVER: MATTHEW 19:16-30

1. What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?
2. How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
3. Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FOLLOW JESUS? Jesus addressed this question in His encounter with what we refer to as “The Rich Young Ruler.” Jesus' teaching speaks right into our value systems and causes us to consider where our priorities are focused in our desire to be ‘followers’ of Him.

COME FOLLOW ME: Jesus spoke these words to His disciples as He gathered His ‘team,’ He spoke them to the Rich Young Ruler (RJR), and He speaks them to us.

- Discuss what the words “Come follow me” meant to Jesus, to the RJR, and to you today before you studied this passage in depth.

THEN COME FOLLOW ME....The RJR indicated to Jesus that, despite his following all the good things he thought he should do, he still was experiencing a VOID in his life....he wanted more. However, after hearing Jesus' response, he was not able to give up all those good things in order to follow Jesus; his attitude was the complete opposite of the attitude of childlike humility Jesus had spoken of in Matthew 19:14. He found his identity in his wealth, and he went away sad, forsaking eternal rewards for temporary benefits.

- In what ways might you be like the RJR? Do you identify with the void he was experiencing?
- How many of us think we are living a ‘good life’ before others? Has doing the ‘right things’ become a way of life for you, as it had for the RJR?
- In what are you truly finding your identity? What things do you really love and give priority in your life?
- If these things stand in the way of elevating Jesus as the priority in your life, how willing are you to remove them and rely on Him alone? What would this look like for you?

WHAT ARE YOU RELYING ON? Jesus didn't focus on the fact that the RJR had made money his idol; He instead pointed to the RJR's failure to obey the very laws he claimed to have kept – loving others, using his resources to help the poor! The RJR chose to depend on his own resources and deeds rather than depend on God.

- How dependent are you on your own skills, resources, and status in life rather than trusting completely in God's resources?
- Spend some time in Ephesians 2:1-10. How do these words from Scripture impact your desire and intention to place all your trust in God and not in your own plans and resources? Can you trust Jesus more than ANYTHING in your life?
- Now that you have looked at the Matthew 19 passage more deeply, does Jesus' call to ‘Come follow me’ have new meaning for you? What intentional steps do you desire to take to follow Jesus with childlike humility?
- Looking forward, how much time will you spend with Jesus to grow your relationship with Him and with others?

SINGLENES: Jesus makes it clear that God honors singleness. Jesus Himself was single! Singleness can be a choice, a result of a marriage ended by death or divorce, or the way life has worked out.

- What challenges and/or opportunities does a single person have, living in our broken world today?
- How can Jesus' example of singleness encourage us in our work for the sake of the kingdom of heaven?

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.