

Real World Skit

Two students discuss putting God first.

Student 1: I like listening to missionaries when they visit our church. They always have such neat stories about how God helped them.

Student 2: Yeah, that was cool how the missionary family got the box of clothing from the church right when they needed it for the village that flooded.

Student 1: God was faithful to answer their prayers and help all those people.

Student 2: I'm happy for them, but I wouldn't want it to be me.

Student 1: What do you mean?

Student 2: Well, I'd be willing to do anything for God—except be a poor missionary like the family that spoke tonight. Did you see the pictures of the houses in their village? Everything is small and dirty. Yuck!

Student 1: But don't you think if we really love the Lord, we should be willing to go wherever he calls us?

Student 2: Sure! As long as he doesn't call me to be poor, I'll follow God.

Student 1: Hmm. If you care that much about being rich instead of obeying God, your idol may be riches.

Student 2: Riches can't be an idol! Idols are like wood or metal statues people bowed down to a long time ago.

Student 1: That's true, people did bow down to actual idols like that. But idolatry is putting anything before our love for God, like the rich young ruler who spoke to Jesus. Remember him?

Student 2: You mean the guy who thought he was keeping all the commandments?

Student 1: Yes. Jesus saw his heart and knew that he loved his riches more than his neighbor or Jesus. So, Jesus asked him to sell all his possessions and give them to the poor then follow him. Do you know what the rich young ruler did?

Student 2: Didn't he obey and follow Jesus?

Student 1: Nope. He went away sad because he didn't want to give up his wealth.

Student 2: Wow! I wonder if I've been caring too much about the things I have and what else I can get.

Print three copies, two for the students and one for you.

Student 1: It's easy to be tempted to be like the rich young ruler. We want the blessings of following Jesus AND the neat stuff in this world. But when we focus on wanting things here on earth, we forget the most important thing.

Student 2: Obeying God?

Student 1: Right!

Student 2: I suppose I have some thinking to do. I really like having nice things.

Student 1: There's nothing wrong with nice things, as long as they don't become more important than God and keep us from obeying him.

Student 2: That must be what it means to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Student 1: That's right. The Bible says that the things in this world won't last, but the work we do for God can last forever, like being a missionary and telling people about Jesus.

Student 2: You're right. If God wants me to be a missionary, I want to obey him.

Student 1: God may have a different plan for you, too. He may call you to grow up and get a great job. Then you can use the money God gives you to help poor people or missionaries!

Student 2: So what really matters is doing what God calls me to do?

Student 1: You got it!