

The REAL Issue

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: Have you ever heard the phrase "The issues is not the issue"? What does THAT mean?

Q: In that situation, what's one good way to discover the "issue"? What happens if you don't?

Table Time...

READ: Mark 10:17-22 " And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"
¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.' "
²⁰ And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." ²¹ And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."
²² Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions."

Q: According to verse 17, what was the man's attitude? In verse 18, what's Jesus response? What's THAT about? What's Jesus trying to do?

Q: What's interesting about Jesus' "answer" in verses 19? What do you notice?

Q: What's the young man's response in verse 20? How is this "revealing" or starting to point to the "REAL" issues?

Q: What's interesting about verse 21?

Q: What does the man believe about Jesus' statement? And what's his response? Have you ever or know anyone who responds to Jesus like this?

READ: Mark 10:23-27 "And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴ And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ And they were

exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God"

Q: What did Jesus say to the disciples (who watched all this)? What was their response according to verse 24?

Q: What does their response tell you about what they believed?

Q: What's Jesus' repetition about? Why does He say it again and this time with the famous "eye of the needle" analogy?

Q: According to the end of verse 26, what's their response?

Q: What's Jesus' pronouncement in verse 27?

READ: Mark 10:28-31 "Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Q: What's behind Peter's pronouncement? What does this tell you about their belief system?

Q: In Jesus' response in verses 29-30, how does that point to MORE?

Q: Was Jesus promoting an "prosperity gospel"?

Q: What's the point of verse 31 and why does Jesus end this section with that?

Big Group Debrief....

Q: How are we often like the "Rich Young Man"?

Q: How can riches, wealth, prosperity, work against the things of God?

Q: Is Jesus "anti-wealth", "stuff", riches? Why or why not?