



LC STUDY GUIDE

Done in Sync with the Really?!? Sermon Series

The Passage: Mark 10:17-22

For Life Community usage 1/11 - 1/24/16

Intro: Here we are in the New Year taking a harder look at who Jesus really was and what He was really about. We'll look at a familiar passage—hopefully with fresh eyes—and discuss what Jesus' kingdom is really about and how we can faithfully follow him.

Central Point – We cannot fully surrender to Jesus if we define ourselves by our résumé, status, and life-profiles. To participate in his Kingdom, we need to see ourselves with fresh eyes.

The Passage: Mark 10:17-22

¹⁷ As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁸ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'"

²⁰ "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

²² At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

O – Can you identify some of the signs of respect the rich young ruler shows to Jesus?
(Runs up to Jesus, falls at his feet, calls him "good teacher," demonstrates some familiarity with his message, and seeks his wisdom regarding eternal life. Minor note, Mark merely refers to the individual as a "man," The context reveals he is "wealthy." Matthew's Gospel tells us he was "young," Luke tells us he was a "ruler," hence his common moniker "rich young ruler.")

I – Jesus' response was not intended to be abrupt, but rather aimed to point the young man to think deeply about what he was saying. The word, "good" belongs to God and thus cannot be used as flippant gesture of praise. Or to paraphrase the great Reformer John Calvin, "Before you address me with such a title, you should soberly consider the implications and what they might mean for you." How does understanding the word "good" in reference to God change the start of the interaction for you?

O – Jesus gives a condensed summary of the second tablet of the law. But there is one prohibition that feels out of place. Can you identify it? Speculate on the possible reasons for this. (*"Do not defraud" is not actually one of the original Ten Commandments, especially since Jesus already includes "do not give false testimony" in the list. It appears to have taken the place of the commandment "Do not covet." Not defrauding, however, is part of the teaching of Leviticus 19:13. Also interesting is that Jesus' call to the man in verse 21 summarizes the first two commandments.*)

O – The young man answers confidently, but what do you see in Jesus' response in verse 21? (*Jesus sees the sincerity in his response as Mark tells us that "Jesus looked at him and loved him." Jesus, knowing what was going to happen, turns the tone from stern teacher to compassionate teacher. From there, Jesus tells him the one thing he lacks.*)

I – The disciples aren't mentioned in the scripture passage, but they are present for this encounter. They may have hoped that this wealthy young ruler could be a financial supporter and/or a ministry partner. The young man also had high hopes for this interaction, likely expecting a blessing from Jesus. Contrast the way the world sees the "rich young ruler" with the way Jesus sees him.

A – Describe a time when you approached someone you greatly admired, perhaps a celebrity or an extraordinary figure in your field of expertise. What did you say to this person? And did your interaction leave you excited, disappointed, or something else?

A – The point Jesus is really making goes beyond wealth and power and the things of this world. Following Jesus faithfully is really about full surrender and sacrifice. What are the things of this world that hold us back from fully surrendering? What wisdom can we find to give us perspective?

A – Optional if the preceding question was not pointed enough. What would this look like for you? What is the one thing or the few things that Jesus might call you to leave behind in order to follow him?

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- a. Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single meeting. Take some time to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best. Select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your Life Community group.
 - b. Complement these questions with "process questions" (what else? what more? what do others think?)
 - c. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don't rush people but encourage participation. Avoid answering your own questions!
 - d. Application: Pace the study to conclude with difference-making application.
 - e. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into "teaching" rather than facilitating, causing people to feel distracted or de-powered.