



Small Group Study Guide for March 8, 2020

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: When a rich young man approached Jesus and asked what he had to do to inherit eternal life, he couldn't accept Jesus' answer. It meant giving up the god enthroned in his heart, and he went away very sad. But Jesus concludes this account by pointing us to God's free gift of salvation to all who believe.

Getting Started:

1. Think of a moment when you gave money to support an organization or cause or ministry and it brought you great joy to do so. Share with the group what the moment was and why you felt the way you did. (you don't need to share the amount)
2. Why do you think most people are reluctant to give more of their wealth away?

In the Word: Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

3. This piece of wisdom literature, inspired by the Holy Spirit, relays King Solomon's observations about the world in which we live, human nature, and the meaning of life. In verse 10, he claims that however loves money never has enough, and that the love of wealth never satisfies. How do you see this to be true in our present world today?
4. While workers and laborers may rest from their work, the wealth of the rich keeps them up at night (vs 12). Solomon observed "wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners." How can wealth and riches actually do harm to individuals and families that obtain them?
5. "Naked we came from our mother's womb, and as everyone comes, so they depart." We can't take any of our wealth or possessions with us when we die. So what should we be doing with them during our life time?
6. What is the relationship between wealth and God in verse 19?

Read Matthew 19:16-26

7. The man calls Jesus “Teacher” instead of Lord, which indicates that the young man is not yet a disciple of Jesus. Where is the man’s focus when he asks Jesus the first question in verse 16?

8. Jesus begins his answer by putting the focus on himself (why do you ask ME? Who do you really think I am? God is one, the Good.), and then gives him a standard answer – keep the commandments. Which commandments specifically does Jesus cite?

9. How is the man described in verse 20? Do you think there is any connection with this description and his answer to Jesus?

10. When the man asks a second time what he still needs to do, Jesus drops the hammer on the idol that the man had set up in his heart. Why do you think Jesus had to tell the man to sell all his possessions before beginning to follow Him?

11. Why do you think Jesus said that it is so hard for the wealthy to enter the Kingdom of heaven?

Putting it all Together

12. How do Christians view wealth and possessions in view of Jesus’ calling?

13. How does Jesus’ words in verse 26 give us comfort, confident, and peace?

Prayer: Ask God to forgive us for the ways we try to fulfill our selfish desires and neglect the good of others and His Kingdom. Ask God to give us generous and joyful hearts that find contentment in Him alone, and that we can use our worldly goods to bless our family, community, and the Kingdom of God.

Lenten Service: Wednesday, March 11, 7 p.m. we are looking at the Anchor Cross with the theme “Secured.” Join in the Lenten Dinner starting at 5:30 p.m.