

AN OFFENSIVE MESSAGE

Matthew 19:16-30

ICE BREAKER: If your house was on fire, what three things would you try to save?

BACKGROUND: The rich young ruler asks Jesus a question, and His answer offends him and he walks away sad.

THE BIG PICTURE: Jesus exposes our idols to touch our heart

DIGGING DEEPER:

Introduction: Read Matthew 19:16-26

- What do you think of this fellow who came to Jesus? How would you describe him?
- What is his view of Jesus (v16)? Why is it wrong to reduce Jesus to being a good teacher?
- The young guy who came to Jesus asked Him, "What must I *do* to inherit eternal life?" What do you think of his question? What appears to be his view on how one receives eternal life?

1. Idolatry: See Matthew 19:21-22

What/Who did the rich young ruler worship? What did Jesus invite him to do? Why couldn't he give up his idols? How did this choice affect him? What have you given up to follow Jesus? How is your life different as a result?

2. Money

Why is it wrong to be obsessed with money? How does money show us where our heart is?

What guidelines does God give about money? [There are so many verses about money. Here are just a few: Deuteronomy 8:17; 15:7; 16:17 • Ecclesiastes 5:10 • Psalm 37:21 • Proverbs 3:9; 10:4; 11:28; 12:11; 13:11,22; 21:5; 22:1, 9; 28:25 • Malachi 3:10 • Matthew 5:42; 6:2-5, 24 • Mark 12:41-44 • Luke 12:15; 14:28 • Romans 13:8 • 1 Corinthians 16:2 • 2 Corinthians 9:7 • 1 Timothy 6:10, 17-19 • Hebrews 13:5 • 1 John 2:15-17

Jesus hit this man where it hurt — in the wallet. If Jesus were to address you where it hurts, what would His hot topic be?

3. Salvation: See Matthew 19:23-26

- How did Jesus use humor to make a point? What was Jesus encouraging the man to do?
- How did Jesus answer Peter's question: "Who then can be saved?"

CONCLUSION:

Who is on the throne of your heart? How do you respond when He says, "Follow Me?"