

Bible Study Discussion 2014-2015



**Lesson 22: Financial Priorities
Luke 18:18-30, 19:1-10, 19:11-27**

Memory Verse



**“For my thoughts
are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways My
ways,” declares the Lord.**

Isaiah 55:8



Shutthorn

"Something's afoot, Pastor.
The entire board just 'de-friended'
you on Facebook."



**Time &
Times**

**People &
Choices**



**Who is
Jesus?**

**Discipleship
in 2015**



Time & Times

These encounters with Jesus were in the days just before Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem.



What were the *times* like?

Society was composed of free people and slaves.

Men dominated and ruled society.

Children and women had little or no rights.

Wealthy people exerted influence over the less wealthy.

They believed that wealth was God's gift to the pious.

Wealth was a man's goal in life.

Wealthy people deserved respect.

Poor were on the bottom of society.



Time & Times

What was Jericho like?

The City of Palms

Affluent town

Financial center

Abundant water supply

Strategic Military Location

Warm, tropical climate

Winter home to the wealthy of Jerusalem

Major roads ran through it

Agriculture prospered outside the city

Home to a large Jewish population

Ideal location for a Chief Tax Collector!

People and Choices

*Who is the Rich Young Ruler
before he encounters Jesus?*



**Rich, Young, and Rules over something
Confident and Well-organized
Determined and Inquisitive
Not identified by name.**

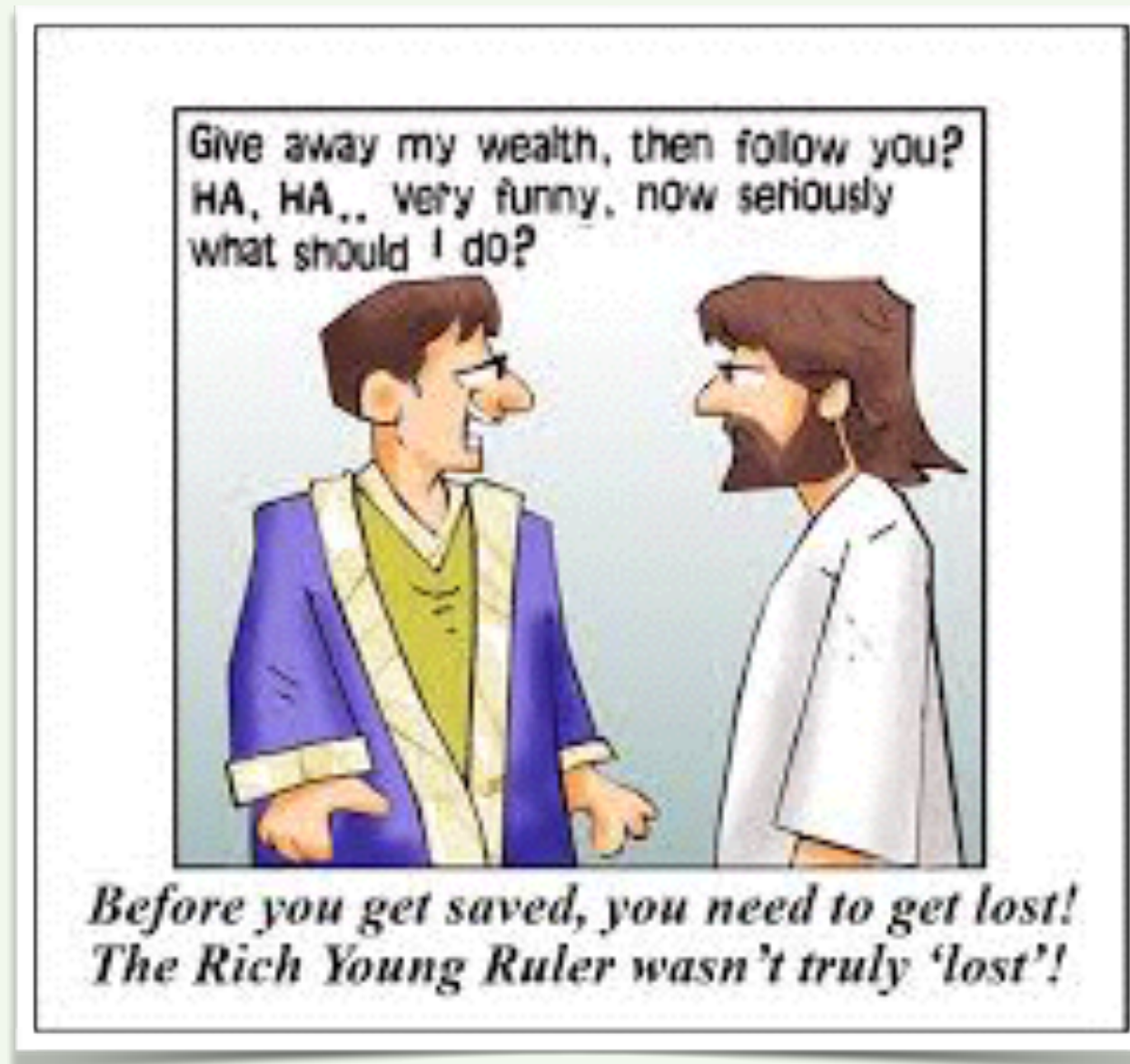
**Wants to impress Jesus with his obedience to the Law
Uses flattery to address Jesus**



**He likely doesn't see Jesus as Son of God
because he doesn't respond to Jesus as divine,
nor does he show humility, nor does he ask for mercy.**

People and Choices

Who is the Rich Young Ruler after he encounters Jesus?



**He chose to be the same person only sad.
He chose his possessions and old values instead of
Jesus. He thought he could earn salvation.**

People and Choices Contrasting Themes



**Security in wealth
vs Security in Jesus**

Greed vs Generosity

Trusting in Self vs Trusting in Jesus

Self-confidence vs Humility

Selfishness vs Selflessness

**Earning Salvation
vs Salvation by Grace**

People and Choices

*Who is Zaccheus
before
he encounters Jesus?*



Resourceful

Despised

Cheat

Sinner

Lost

Chief Tax Collector

Identified by Name

Only time he is mentioned in the Bible



People and Choices

*Who is Zaccheus
after
he encounters Jesus?*

**Follower
Hospitable
Joyous
Repentant**

Eager to right the wrong generously



Jesus gave him and his household salvation.



His name in Hebrew means “righteous” or “pure”.

People and Choices Contrasting Themes



Lost vs Found

**Social Protocol vs
Doing What's Right**

Greed vs Generosity

Sadness vs Joy

**Salvation is for the
oppressed and the
oppressor.**

People and Choices

The Parable

In the 12th century, King Richard I of England left to fight the Crusades. While gone, his brother sought claim to the throne and got the support of Bishop of Litchfield. On returning, the king pardoned the Bishop with the condition he rebuild the cathedral which stands today.



In our Bible story, upon the return, the king will NOT pardon the disloyal. Jesus is very firm that judgement will come to the disloyal or the rejectors.



People and Choices

Group #1: The Rejectors

“But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We don’t want this man to be our king.’ Luke 19:14 NIV

Historically, there was a situation that the people would recognize. Herod died in 4 BC. Two of his sons (Antipas and Archelaus) went to Rome to lobby to become king. Rome had to approve someone being called king. There was a Jewish delegation that followed Archelaus to lobby against him becoming king because he was so bad. So, title was refused him.

Scripturally, Jesus is saying that not everyone will be working for Jesus or looking forward to his return. In fact, there will be Jewish leaders who don’t want him king and will show their antagonism in the coming days in Jerusalem.

People and Choices

The Parable



Group #2

First and Second Servants

Believe and Trust their King

Choose to be Obedient and Serve their King

Do not claim credit for the earnings

Their reward isn't rest, but more opportunities to serve.

People and Choices

The Parable



Group #3 Third Servant

Critical of his King

Chooses to do nothing out of his fear

Chooses not to make good use of his gift

Does not have faith or trust in the King

Has an attitude problem

Group #4 Other 7 Servants

We don't know what happened to them.

People and Choices Contrasting Themes



**God's Kingdom Now
vs
God's Kingdom in God's
Timing**

**Punishment for not Using the
Opportunities God Gives**

vs

**Rewards for Using the
Opportunities God Gives**

Life vs Death



Who is Jesus?

He is always a teacher.

**Although his time on earth is short,
he takes the time to be with people.**

He turns cultural norms upside down.

He rejoices with us when we get it.

**He loves us all and wants everyone to follow him,
but some will refuse.**

He is a gracious but just king

2015 Discipleship

Questions to Ask Yourself

Jordan Belfort said:



So you listen to me and you listen well.
Are you behind on you credit card bills?
Good, pick up the phone and start dialing!

Is your landlord ready to evict you?
Good! Pick up the phone and start dialing!

Does your girlfriend think you're [a] worthless loser?
Good! Pick up the phone and start dialing!

I want you to deal with your problems by becoming rich!

2015 Discipleship

Questions to Ask Yourself



**Does money solve all your problems?
Our society says yes! You can buy solutions.**

**Does money buy you peace? Our society says yes!
The more money you have, the fewer worries you have.**

**Does money buy you joy? Our society says yes!
When you're sad, buy something to make you happy.**

**Does money buy you salvation? Our society says yes!
Money provides salvation from a boring, neglected, and
minimal lifestyle.**

Jesus turns society upside down!



2015 Discipleship

How do you look at money?

EXPLORE YOUR PRIORITIES

- Is acquiring lots of money wrong? No, if its done legally.**
- Is having wealth wrong? No, not necessarily.**
- Is loving wealth above all wrong? Yes.**
For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. I Timothy 6:10.
- Where does money and possessions rank in your list of priorities? Where does it rank in your heart?**



2015 Discipleship

How do you look at money?

CONSIDER HOW YOUR MONEY IS USED

- Does your money provide for your needs (food, clothing, shelter) and maybe some of your wants?**
- Does your money provide for the needs of others, your neighbors both near and far?**
- How are you investing your money in furthering the Kingdom of God?**



2015 Discipleship

How do you look at money?

AIM FOR GENEROSITY

- We are the stewards of all God's gifts.**
Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10
- Live out your faith.**
- Make good choices.**
- You need to consider your time and talents in addition to your treasure when you aim for generosity.**



Kids' Meals

Today in the Fellowship Hall after Lecture
Help us Feed Hungry Children!

Enjoy your Spring Break
March 16 - 20





Applying the Lesson to Your Life

**Make a list of the top 5
priorities in your life.**