

Membership Covenant



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Matthew 19:16-30

Message for the Week: What Must I Do?

Sunday, November 26

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

Of all the things you were thankful for this past week, which would you gladly give up to be right with God?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Matthew 19:16-30](#) out loud.

[Clicking the link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

Are there any things that have a hold on you?

Do you believe the wealthy young man really kept the law perfectly? Why or why not?

If we/you want to be perfect, what needs to happen?

This verse, "...with God all things are possible", is on a lot of Christian merch. In the context of our passage this week, what does this verse really mean?

Have you zeroed out your portfolio in life in order to receive eternal life? Is there anything you still need to let go of, give away, or sell?

Why do you think Jesus says it is so hard for rich people to enter the kingdom of God?

Try It:

What is really important to you that you can give away or let go of to bless someone else? Do it.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Father, forgive me/us for letting the stuff of this world rule my/our heart. Give me the courage to let go of whatever gets in the way of my/our relationship with you. AMEN

Missional/Spiritual Practice: Giving

I commit to giving generously of my time for the building of Christ's Church and Kingdom.

I commit to giving generously of my talents for the building of Christ's Church and Kingdom.

I commit to giving generously of my treasures (financial resources) for the building of Christ's Church and Kingdom.

I commit to giving generously of my testimony for the building of Christ's Church and Kingdom.

How are you giving generously in these areas? If not, why not? What needs to change?

Matthew 19:16-30

New International Version

19 ¹⁶ Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

¹⁷ "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments."

¹⁸ "Which ones?" he inquired.

Jesus replied, "'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, ¹⁹ honor your father and mother,'^(a) and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'^(b)"

²⁰ "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"

²¹ Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

²² When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

²³ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁵ When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?"

²⁶ Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

²⁷ Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?"

²⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife^(c) or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first."

Footnotes

a. [Matthew 19:19](#) Exodus 20:12-16; Deut. 5:16-20

b. [Matthew 19:19](#) Lev. 19:18

c. [Matthew 19:29](#) Some manuscripts do not have *or wife*.

The Message

19 ¹⁶ Another day, a man stopped Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Why do you question me about what's good? *God* is the One who is good. If you want to enter the life of God, just do what he tells you."

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ The man asked, "What in particular?"

Jesus said, "Don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't lie, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as you do yourself."

²⁰ The young man said, "I've done all that. What's left?"

²¹ "If you want to give it all you've got," Jesus replied, "go sell your possessions; give everything to the poor. All your wealth will then be in heaven. Then come follow me."

²² That was the last thing the young man expected to hear. And so, crestfallen, he walked away. He was holding on tight to a lot of things, and he couldn't bear to let go.

²³⁻²⁴ As he watched him go, Jesus told his disciples, "Do you have any idea how difficult it is for the rich to enter God's kingdom? Let me tell you, it's easier to gallop a camel through a needle's eye than for the rich to enter God's kingdom."

²⁵ The disciples were staggered. "Then who has any chance at all?"

²⁶ Jesus looked hard at them and said, "No chance at all if you think you can pull it off yourself. Every chance in the world if you trust God to do it."

²⁷ Then Peter chimed in, "We left everything and followed you. What do we get out of it?"

²⁸⁻³⁰ Jesus replied, "Yes, you have followed me. In the re-creation of the world, when the Son of Man will rule gloriously, you who have followed me will also rule, starting with the twelve tribes of Israel. And not only you, but anyone who sacrifices home, family, fields—whatever—because of me will get it all back a hundred times over, not to mention the considerable bonus of eternal life. This is the Great Reversal: many of the first ending up last, and the last first."