

A Blessed Last Place Finish

Matt. 19.13-20.19

Focus: to exalt God as merciful to the "Lasts" and needed by the "Firsts", and to challenge us to offer that place as humble sinners in great need of grace to everyone, rich and poor alike.

RESOURCES:

Parallel passages for the rich young ruler are Mark 10.17-30 and Luke 18.18-30

Here is a helpful article on the rich young ruler:

<https://bible.org/seriespage/28-wealth-and-kingdom-heaven-matthew-1916-30>



2016 Annual Priority:

To establish a greater devotion to believing and being shaped by the three great loves embedded in our mission statement's goal of becoming a mature and ministering worshiper of God; love for God, love for the church, and love of neighbor.

Discussion:

- Read Matt. 19.13-22. How does the story of the rich young ruler contrast with the story of the children just before it? How does the story of this man surprise you?
- It can be tough to sort out why Jesus responded to him the way he did. What are some reasons he would have told him to keep the commandments as a way to have eternal life?
- Why do you think the man left in sorrow? Do you think Jesus' call to sell it all has application for us? How should this story affect our view of our possessions?
- What are the main things Jesus is teaching his disciples in 19.23-29? How can we inherit 100x our losses in this life (see Mark 10.30)? How does that affect how you think about sacrifices you are called to make?
- Read 20.1-16. What's the big idea of this story? How does this story shed light on the previous 2 stories about children and the rich man?
- What tempts you to become a "First" (those who hope they can earn God's grace)? What helps you become a "Last" (those who know they are waaaaay overpaid by God's grace)?
- Do you know someone who is a "First", like the rich young man, who could be tempted to think they deserve God's mercy? How can you best pray and speak of Christ to them?