

Series: Counting the Cost The Cost of Being a Successful Steward

Mark 10:17-31 (NIV)

¹⁷As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁸"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'"

²⁰"Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

²¹Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

²²At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

²³Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

²⁴The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁶The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"

²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

²⁸Peter said to him, "We have left everything to follow you!"

²⁹"I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields--and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

1. Background of the Rich Young Ruler:

- Wealthy - Options
- Ruler - Influence
- Good Moral Character – Nice Guy
- Young - Time

2. Personality Assessment: v. 17

- He had courage
- He was spontaneous
- He was humble
- He was open

3. Needs Assessment: He Was

- Spiritually frustrated v. 21
- Spiritually immature v. 19-20
- Spiritually independent v. 11

For Jesus, the source of fulfillment = dependence

For the Ruler, the source of fulfillment = independence

4. Radical Therapy v. 21

Two-Part Treatment:

- (1) Go and Sell (2) Come and Follow

5. Levels of Control:

Bottom Level – Where my possessions control me

Middle Level – Where I control my possessions

Top Level – Where God controls both my possessions and me.

6. Reactions to Rejection:

Rich Young Ruler – He went away sad

Jesus – He was sad as well

Disciples – They were surprised

It is not what you collect but what you commit that opens the doors to God's blessings.

Your Reaction - _____

Steps to Spiritual Fulfillment:

- Realize that it is impossible to find fulfillment in possessions. v. 25
- Jesus Christ alone can give you spiritual fulfillment. v. 26-27
- If you want spiritual fulfillment, give everything to God. v. 28-31
- The cost of stewardship?
 - Consecration
 - Commitment
 - Consistency

**To receive all that God has for you--
you must give all you have to God.**