

Coming Into Focus: Treasure

Small Group Discussion Guide

Mark 10:13-29

1. Have you ever had to give something up that you loved? Share what that was like.
2. Have you ever met someone whose faith you envied? What was it about them that was so attractive?
3. In ancient times, rich people were seen as those who had performed the best in God's eyes. Do you think there is a modern-day equivalent in church culture? Who are the people most in the religious community assume have it "right" with God?
4. Read Mark 10:13-30. Spend some time comparing and contrasting the little children with the man.
5. What do you think it was about the disciples that enabled them to do what the rich man could not?
6. Following Jesus is about what he has not offer, not what we have to offer. It's about what he can do, not what we can do. It's about what he has done, not what we have done. Discuss these statements for a little while. What practical implications do they have for our lives?
7. Jesus has much to offer, but the greatest thing he offers us is himself. In response, the greatest thing we can offer is ourselves—in the broken, flawed, imperfect state that we're in. How do we offer ourselves to him without falling into performance-based thinking?
8. How did the rich man settle for less?

"If there lurks in most modern minds the notion that to desire our own good and earnestly to hope for the enjoyment of it is a bad thing, I submit that this notion...is no part of the Christian faith. Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."