



And as [Jesus] was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him...  
(Mark 10:17)

Matthew describes this person as a "young man" (19:20, 22) and Luke identifies him as "a ruler" (18:18). Notice what he asked Jesus...

"Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

(Mark 10:17-22)

How sad to cross paths with Jesus, to be "disheartened" by what Jesus had to say, and then go away sorrowful. We don't want to do that! We want to cross paths with Jesus, hear what he has to say, and follow him, even when it's costly. So what do we need to hear?

And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

(10:23-31)

So what can we learn from this rich young ruler and his interaction with Jesus? Let's dig in...



# For Class & Family Discussion:

1. What stands out to you about the way this interaction began between Jesus and the rich young ruler?
2. What do you think Jesus meant by what he said in Mark 10:18?
3. Listen carefully to what Mark tells us in 10:21 and the words of Jesus in that verse. We live in a world where “love” is often twisted into something that doesn’t really resemble what God means when he talks about “love.” What do we need to see and understand from this verse?
4. Mark 10:22 tells us that the rich young ruler was “disheartened by the saying.” We hear Jesus saying, “Take heart” in other passages (Matt 9:2, 22; 14:27; John 16:33). So what does it mean to be “disheartened”?
5. Why do you think Jesus said what he said in Mark 10:23-25?
6. Let’s think through what Jesus is communicating in 10:29-31. Is Jesus telling us the truth? If so, in what ways?
7. So what about us? We want not only to “cross paths” with Jesus, but to walk with him as his disciples. So what should we carry away with us from this rich young ruler?