

Connecting Church and Home

Quarter 2, Week 9 :: **A Servant's Reward**

Treasure Story: Mark 10:17-31

Have you ever heard the saying, "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth"? Basically it means that if something is free for the taking, take it. In today's Treasure Story, Jesus told a rich young ruler that entering the kingdom of heaven was possible, but there was one pressing issue with his heart that had to be taken care of first.

Connect

"What makes our reward truly great is the greater fullness of our fellowship with God."
– John Piper

The rich young ruler had lived a good life and was by all accounts a good person, but Jesus required a right heart also. To enter the kingdom, the young ruler needed to give up everything and follow Jesus. Everything that was first in this young man's life now must become last. As you participate in the following activities this week, help your children to see how they can forsake earthly riches to gain heavenly wealth:

- **The Value of Things:** Challenge your family to bring something into the room that holds value to them. It could be a baseball glove, car keys, or even jewelry. Some of these things are not bad things to have, and some of them might bring us much happiness. Encourage everyone in your family to not hold on tightly to these material things, but to treasure Christ above all things.
- **Refusing What is Good:** Sometimes we reject what is good for us. We reject vegetables and fruits even though they are much more beneficial to our bodies than junk food. Explain to your family that God does not reject people because they are wealthy, but He will reject them if their wealth is their god. Challenge your family to not reject God's grace in their lives but to see it as more precious than anything they can possess in this life.

My Mission As Parent

- Do you allow wealth to drive your life? Do you complain that you don't have this luxury or that car? Your children are listening to you. Trust in Christ first and foremost. If you do, Jesus will not magically make you wealthy, but your heart will change and your focus will be on your eternal reward in heaven.
- Are there any idols in your life? Sometimes good things can become an idol to us. Our spouse, our house, and even our children can become idols to us. Jesus was teaching the young ruler that to inherit the kingdom of heaven we cannot hold on tightly to created things, but we must hold firmly on to Him and His grace. Let that be evident to your children as you raise them.

Prayer Points

- Praise God for His grace in sending Jesus to free us from worshipping earthly wealth.
- Pray that we would not hold on firmly to material things, but that Jesus would be first in our lives.
- Praise Jesus that He laid down everything for us, so we could be saved from our sins.