

**What Materialism
can make us forget...**

Mark 10:17-24

7 Lessons

from the Rich Young Ruler

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50th (median)	\$63,179
80 th	\$130,000
90 th	\$184,292
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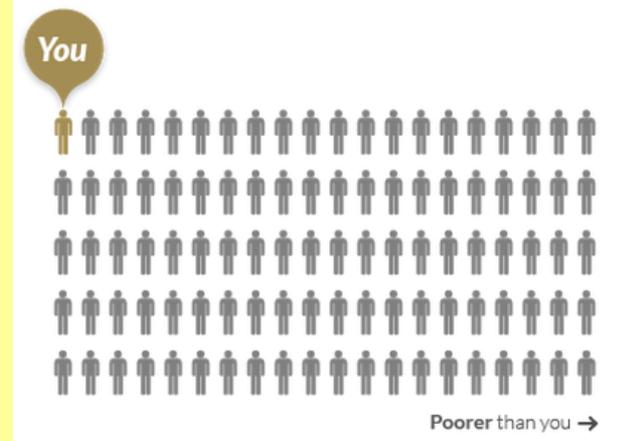
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- That means half the households in America make more than 30 times the worldwide income; the 10th percentile still make over 7 times this number

<https://www.sportofmoney.com/>

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1. We are fortunate to live in one of the most prosperous times in history; in one of the richest nations of all time!
2. This is a wonderful blessing, and we need to be:
 - a. *Thankful to God!*
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2. This is a wonderful blessing, and we need to be:
 - a. *Thankful to God!*
 - b. *Using our prosperity to serve God!*
3. However, this great prosperity also presents God's people with a great obstacle: Worldly Distractions!
4. Our great wealth provides us many distractions which can make us forget about God and His work!
5. WE ALL UNDERSTAND THIS FIRST HAND!!

INTRODUCTION...

6. We want to discuss Materialism, specifically how this interferes with our Service to God!
 - a. *Briefly define the problem*
 - b. *Review Mark's account of the Rich Young Ruler – **Mark 10:17-24***
 - c. *Notice 7 ways Materialism factored into his decision to reject Jesus!*

I. Materialism...

A. Defined:

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C. God has warned us about this danger!

- a. *Israel is warned about this before they entered Canaan - Deut 8:10-14*
- b. *Jesus’ warning - Luke 21:34-36*
- c. *Demas, 2 Tim 4:10 and Martha, Luke 10:38-42*
- d. *Luke 8:4-15; vs. 14: “choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life”*

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- a. *It illustrates the distracting or blinding nature of Materialism*
- b. *It quantifies some specific areas of devotion and service to God that are especially susceptible to Materialism*
- c. *It is a particularly applicable Case Study to Christians as the Rich Young Ruler was already following God, but quit!*

II. Our Text... **Mark 10:17-23**

A. Context of Jesus' encounter with the Rich Young Ruler

a. Shortly before final visit to Jerusalem ~30 AD

b. Jesus is in Perea and traveling towards Jerusalem

*c. Account also found in: **Matthew 19:16-30 & Luke 18:18-30***

B. Text....

MARK 10:17-23

- 17 Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"
- 18 So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.
- 19 "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'"
- 20 And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth."
- 21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."
- 22 But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.
- 23 Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!"

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DANGER of MATERIALISM Vs.24-31

One thing can stand between us and God!

Jesus did not make exceptions to the requirements!

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B. Text....

C. Seven observations regarding Materialism...

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#1. Respect for God and His Word

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- Vs. 18 – This “teacher” is God! & Vs. 20 – he acknowledges this!

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C. The same can happen to US!

- Riches...become our god, we will bow to its demands – **Col 3:5**
- Pleasures...will sidetrack us and hold us away from our Father, and His work!
- Have we every put our things before our service to God?!

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#2. Our Desire and Enthusiasm for God

A. The man came Running to Jesus...

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- He passionately wanted spiritual things (**Vs 20,21**)

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- Riches & pleasures...we can desire gold more than God!
- Cares and trials of this life can modify our spiritual desires and quench our motivation to serve God
- Is our desire for things greater that our desire for God!?

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#3. Our Desire to Work for the Lord!

A. The man came Willing to Work for the Lord...

- **Vs. 17** – “what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”
- He understood work was going to be needed, and was willing!

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- A horrible thought that we put our hand to the plow and look back
– **Luke 9:62**
- Are we working harder for our positions than for the Lord!?

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#4. Our Desire for Eternal Life & Heaven!

A. The man came Longing for Eternal Life...

- **Vs. 17** – “what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”
- He understood this world is not his home!

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- In a moment he traded a spiritual home for earthly “things”!

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- Riches & Pleasures tempt us to love this world and what it offers
- Cares tempt us to focus and dwell on this life!
- We must keep an eternal focus continually! – **Jn 14:3**

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#5. The Hope & Happiness we have in the Lord

A. The man came Hopeful to Jesus...

- **Vs. 17** – “came running...Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life”
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- All too often our eyes are tempted from the Lord toward physical riches and pleasures!
- All too often we claim if life situations would ease, we would be happy...only to realize true happiness is only through Godliness!

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#6. Our Past Service and Successes

A. The man came to Jesus, Already Dedicated to God...

- **Vs. 20** – “all these things I have kept from my youth”; Jesus seems to concur, **Vs. 21**.
- He has success in some of life’s toughest times!

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C. The same can happen to US!

- How often have we seen brethren leave the faith to pursue riches or pleasures?!
- How often have we seen brethren loose faith due to trials?!

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#7. Our blessing from God: Talents & Abilities

A. The man came to Jesus, Already Blessed by God...

- **Vs. 22** – “...he had many possessions”
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- Everything we have is from God!
- We often forget this and selfishly claim we are responsible
- Are we selfish with our blessing from God?!

CONCLUSIONS

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2. However, this great prosperity also presents God's people with a great obstacle: Worldly Distractions!
3. Christians must be careful not to allow Materialism to make us forget:
 - #1. Respect for God and His Word
 - #2. Our Desire and Enthusiasm for God
 - #3. Our Willingness to work for the Lord
 - #4. Our Desire for Eternal Life & Heaven
 - #5. The Hope & Happiness we have in the Lord
 - #6. Our Past Service and Successes
 - #7. Our blessing from God: Talents & Abilities