

The Church's Call to Give All (Matthew 19:16-30)

Jesus and the disciples encounter and learn from a rich young ruler

I. **Introduction:** The story of millionaire John Pedley

II. **The story of a rich young man (16-22)**

A. A good and moral man lacked something to enter into life

1. His expectation was that there was some good deed he could do
2. He saw eternal life as a possession that he could gain
3. He believed gaining eternal life was dependent on himself
4. He saw eternal life as a merely a future commodity

B. Jesus corrects the young man's man-centered view by directing him to God

1. God alone is good and the source of any and all good in mankind
2. Life is a free gift of God that begins today on earth and lasts forever

C. Jesus' surprising reply: "*keep the commandments*"

1. He means what he says – Jesus knows the purpose of the law
2. The legalist's response – "*which ones?*"
3. Jesus exposes the young man's heart

III. **The disciples' lesson from the encounter (23-30)**

A. The impossibility of salvation for a rich man

B. The dethroning of material gain and enthroning of Christ
You cannot serve two masters

IV. **Applying this encounter to our lives – Am I a rich young ruler?**

Take your salary for the last three months, subtract:

Rent, Utilities/Phone (not cable TV), Insurance, Groceries (not restaurants),
Gas, Loan Payment, Necessary clothing, Grooming, Registration and Fees.

Take the number that is left and see how much you:

1. spent on yourself and your family (unnecessary clothing, entertainment, luxuries, comforts, vacations) and
2. gave to others, the poor, and work of the kingdom (church and missions)

B. Treasure Principles (Randy Alcorn)

1. God owns everything, we are just managers of money
2. Giving the only antidote for materialism
3. God prospers me, not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.