

LEADER OVERVIEW - APRIL WEEK 1

Text: Matthew 19:20-26, Philippians 3:7-9 (cf. Matthew 13:44)

Objective: For Young Adults to realize that the ultimate desire of our hearts is Jesus and that God is our supreme source of satisfaction and joy.

Text Overview: In Matthew 19:20-26, the Rich Young Ruler encounters Jesus in pursuit of eternal life. Jesus calls him to leave everything and follow him—something the Rich Young Ruler is unwilling to do. In contrast, Paul, the author of Philippians, encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). His life and view of God was forever changed. As a result, Paul sees everything in life as a loss compared to simply knowing Christ.

Text Explanation: These two passages highlight two opposing *views* of Jesus. The Rich Man is confused when he asks Jesus how to inherit eternal life and Jesus replies to follow God's commands. Internally, the Rich Man thinks he has followed all the commands, but he feels he still lacks something. Jesus knows exactly what is wrong in the Rich Man's mind. Jesus asks the Rich Man to leave all his stuff and come follow him. The Rich Man won't do it. In this exchange, the Rich Man reveals his view of God. He reveals that he considers all his possessions more valuable than Jesus. Even more than following the commands, Jesus wants the Rich Man to follow *him*. Jesus wants the Rich Man to find eternal life in *him*. John 5:39-40 highlights the core of this dilemma. Jesus says, "³⁹You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life." The Rich Man believes he has everything—he sees himself as a "good person," he has wealth, and he has security. The Rich Man didn't understand that Jesus *is* the key to true life. He thought his possessions were the roadmap to a full life. As a result, he missed out on the greatest gift of all time, which is God's son.

A.W. Tozer writes, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." With a changed view of God comes a changed view of life—indeed a changed life. Paul writes, "I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." Paul knows that Jesus is better than anything. He knows that Jesus' love is sweeter than any possession or comfort on earth. Paul lived in an abundant joy simply knowing Christ Jesus. Jesus was and is everything to Paul. Jesus was the reason Paul got out of bed every morning. Jesus was the reason Paul planted churches everywhere he went. Jesus was the reason Paul took risks. Jesus was the reason Paul was able to endure suffering, beatings, and imprisonments. Paul's life was trademarked by joy (Phil. 4:1, 4, 10), peace (Phil. 4:7), confidence (Gal. 1:10), courage (2 Cor. 5:6-8), and love (1 Thess. 2:8,17-19), all because he knew Jesus and had a right *view* of him.

Discussion Instructions: This discussion is about self-examination. What really is my view of God/Jesus? We can all respond with the "right" answer, but what the *true* answer is should be at the core of the conversation.

General Tip: After reading these two passages as a group, it could be helpful to start with the question, "What sticks out to you from this passage?" Use your discretion in doing this before launching into the questions on the sheet.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - APRIL WEEK 1

Introduction

1. What comes to mind first when you think about your relationship with Jesus? Part 2: What keeps you from seeing that relationship as joyful?
2. What do you desire? (In life, relationships, for your future, etc.)

Read Matthew 19:20-26 & Philippians 3:7-9. (What sticks out to you from these passages?)

3. What are you willing to sell off that you might gain the surpassing greatness found in Jesus? (That you might view everything else as garbage in comparison to the “treasure in the field” (Jesus).
4. What do you think it’s like to enjoy God?
5. What’s something tangible that you can do to enjoy God this week?

