

THE CHALLENGE OF FOLLOWING CHRIST

Mark 10:17-24
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INTRO:

What went wrong?

A. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE RICH YOUNG RULER

1. **Spiritually** Aware – He recognized Jesus as a moral authority (vv. 17–18)
2. **Morally** Upright – He followed the commandments (v. 20)
3. **Socially** Successful – He had poise, status, wealth, and influence (v. 22)

B. THE DRAWBACK OF THE RICH YOUNG RULER

1. Right pursuit, wrong **intentions** (v. 18-20)
2. Right question, wrong **reasons** (v. 17,21)
3. Right answer, wrong **response** (v. 21-22)

C. THE DIRECTION OF FOLLOWING CHRIST

1. Discipleship isn't about performance — it's a **profound** commitment to Christ.
2. Discipleship isn't about surface-level faith — it's absolute **surrender** to Christ.
3. Discipleship isn't just about spiritual habits — it's about a heart **transformed** from the inside out.

CONCLUSION

The rich young ruler walked away with his wealth... but without eternal life. Jesus still says today: "Come, follow Me." Will you walk toward Him — or walk away from Him?

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICEBREAKER: If you could ask Jesus one question face to face, what would it be — and why?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The rich young ruler had spiritual awareness, moral character, and social success — yet he walked away from Jesus.

- Why do you think that wasn't enough?
- What does this reveal about what Jesus values most?

2. Reflecting on the phrases from the sermon:

- Right pursuit, wrong intentions
- Right question, wrong reasons
- Right answer, wrong response

Can you think of a time in your life when you were doing the *right thing*, but with the *wrong heart*? How does this story challenge the way we define “faithfulness” today?

3. Look at these three truths from the outline:

- Discipleship is not about performance — it's a profound commitment.
- Discipleship is not surface-level faith — it's absolute surrender.
- Discipleship is not just habits — it's about heart transformation.

Which of these is most challenging for you personally? Why?

Where do you see God inviting you to take a next step in surrender?

4. Jesus said, “*Come, follow Me.*” But the man walked away sad.

- What are some modern-day “riches” (possessions, comforts, relationships, goals) that can keep people from fully following Christ?
- What might Jesus be calling you to release so you can walk more closely with Him?

Closing Reflection / Prayer Prompt:

As we end, take a few quiet moments to ask: “Jesus, is there anything I'm holding onto that's keeping me from fully following You?” Pray for courage to surrender and follow — fully and faithfully.