

ENCOUNTERS

Rich Young Ruler

Growth Group Opener:

What is one non-essential in your house you would absolutely refuse to give up?

Read Mark 10:17-27 (see also Matthew 19:16-26; Luke 18:18-27)

How is the way this man approaches Jesus so different from the way he leaves?

What does it tell us that someone with so much spiritual sincerity could still walk away?

Why is sincerity alone insufficient?

Jesus says that there was only one thing the man lacked. If he were to say the same to you, what might that one thing be that is getting in the way between you and Jesus?

The one thing the man could not release was a thing often viewed as a sign of God's favor. Mark 10:22 says that the man went away grieving. What does this grief reveal about what was actually happening inside of him?

How should Mark 10:21 shape the way you read this encounter with Jesus?

Jesus does not soften the cost of discipleship, but he does relocate the source of the ability to accomplish it. How is true discipleship made possible? Who bears the weight of the actual transformation?

Where in your life do you most need to shift the weight from your own limited ability to God's unlimited ability?

Have you ever experienced a costly invitation from God that you only later recognized as love? What did it cost, and what did it produce?

We don't know what happened to this man after his encounter with Jesus. What does it mean for our discipleship that some interactions with Jesus may not produce instant fruit...or fruit that we ever get to witness?

What can we learn about God from this story?

Is there anything you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to look at more closely?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for loving us in spite of the things we need to lay at your feet. Help us to keep our identity grounded in you, and our hands open to whatever you may ask of us. Give each of us the courage and trust to make you Lord over the entirety of our life. In the name of Jesus, amen.