

Message by Pastor John Johnson
November 12-13, 2011
When We Try to Impress God
Matthew 19:16-26

Questions for Life Groups:

1. The young man asks Jesus, "What good thing must I do to get internal life?" According to the sermon and what we know from the text, what strikes you about his question and what do you think was the man's motivation for asking it?
2. He was a righteous man who had fulfilled the law, yet aware that something was still missing. Jesus in essence said "you lack what you have." How did all the possessions and wealth that he had create a "lack" in his life?
3. Jesus gave him further instructions in vs. 21. Why was this so hard for him to "do?"
4. What does this story tell us about God?
 - a. About wealth?
 - b. About giving?
 - c. About discipleship?
5. Take a minute to think about what you "have" that may be causing a "lack" in your life? Share that with your group.
6. Do you know of someone who is "poor" in possessions, in means, in spirit, in relationships, in education, in family? What contributions is God revealing that you can make to them? What will you need to let go of in order to do that?
7. Is there something you are hanging on to that God may be asking for in order to follow Him? Something costly? Can you share that in your group?
8. Given the application of the sermon, how might God be speaking to you regarding your responsibility to the poor? Who are the "poor" in your life?