

# Sermon Discussion Guide




## “Poverty and Wealth”

Matthew 19:16-30

Rev. Adam Jones, March 21 & 22, 2015

### Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Matthew 19:16-30. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

### Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1 Do you want to be rich? Do you think you could handle winning the lottery?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

#### THE POVERTY OF MORALISM

- 3 What is the problem with believing that God blesses people materially because they are good morally? Why is moralism the biggest religion in the world?
- 4 How does moralism make its followers insecure, anxious, fearful, exhausted, and angry with God? Why is knowing the Bible dangerous if you don’t apply it to yourself?

- 5 How do you typically react when someone says you are wrong? Do you blame shift, look for loopholes, try to fix it, or defend yourself?
- 6 Who is on your list of people you tend to look down on? Do strugglers find it easy to talk to you, or are you someone who always seems to have the answer?
- 7 Discuss the following two quotes:  
    “The reason we are so bad is because we are trying so hard to be good.”  
    “The gospel says it is ok not to be ok.”

#### THE POVERTY OF MATERIALISM

- 8 You are rich. Do you know you are rich? Do you feel rich? Do you think having money changes you?
- 9 How does money become a functional savior for people? If money is not your functional savior, what is? In other words, what causes you grief or sadness when it is taken away from you?

#### THE WEALTH OF THE GOSPEL

- 10 Adam said, “In order to be free from moralism and materialism you have to leave and you have to meet someone.” What did he mean? What do you have to leave? Who do you have to meet?

### **Step 3: Final Reflections**

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?