


First Love

Mark 10:17-31

Ray Cortese, March 5 & 6, 2016

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 Mark 10:17-31. 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 How do you feel when money is talked about in church? Why do you think money should, or shouldn't, be talked about in church?
- 2 What was your one big/main takeaway from the service? If someone had arrived as everyone was leaving, and they stopped you in the parking lot and asked, "What was the sermon about?" what would you have said?

FIRST LOVE: CHOOSE YOUR LOVE

- 3 In your own words, what was the rich young ruler's problem? How is he paradigmatic of most North American Christians?
- 4 Ray listed off several diagnostic questions you could ask yourself to discover whether or not you love money more than God. Which question stood out to you the most, and why? Do you think of yourself as part of the 1% of the wealthiest persons in all of history?

- 5 Were you surprised by the church's tithing statistics? Why or why not? What was the point of the Gasparilla Festival analogy?

FIRST LOVE: EXPERIENCE THE IMPOSSIBLE

- 6 The disciples asked, "How can anyone be saved?" Jesus answered, "With man it is impossible, but not with God." What is it that is impossible for man to do? What does it mean when we say, "The only thing you need in order to get God is need"? How can money be a hindrance to seeing your need?
- 7 How is Jesus to the true/ultimate rich young ruler?

FIRST LOVE: TAKE THE PRESCRIPTION

- 8 Some women in Ft. Lauderdale declared "The Year of Me". How does that compare to what Jesus says is the way to find life? Which is more enticing to you?
- 9 What are the rewards of following Jesus? What would you say to someone who asks, "Is being a Christian really worth it?"

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?