Following Jesus: Lessons from the Rich Young Ruler



A 7-day study exploring surrender, discipleship, and eternal life through the story of the Rich Young Ruler in Mark 10:17–31.





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Introduction

The story of the **Rich Young Ruler** in *Mark 10:17—31* offers a profound look into what it truly means to follow Jesus. This young man, wealthy and moral, approached Jesus with a sincere desire for eternal life, yet his encounter reveals the deeper challenge of surrendering all to Christ. Through this study, we will journey over seven days to uncover themes of trust, surrender, discipleship, and the value of eternal treasures over earthly wealth.

Jesus' call to the Rich Young Ruler is not just about obeying commandments; it is an invitation to radically rearrange his priorities and possessions. This story challenges us today: Are we willing to let go of what holds us back to fully follow Jesus? **Surrendering everything** involves faith that goes beyond works and riches, focusing on relationship with Christ as the ultimate treasure.

Throughout this study, we will dive into Scripture passages that illuminate Jesus' teaching, the cost of discipleship, and the hope found in the kingdom of God. Whether you identify more with the ruler's struggle or his heartfelt desire, this plan will invite you to examine your own heart and inspire a deeper commitment to Jesus' call.

Prepare to engage your heart, challenge your assumptions, and embrace the journey of following Jesus wholeheartedly.

















Day 1: 😷 💼 The Search for Eternal Life

Your Verse

Mark 10:17 – 'As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"'

Supporting Scriptures

- Matthew 19:16 "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"
- Luke 18:18 "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"







Day 1: 🕙 💼 The Search for Eternal Life

Devotional: Seeking Eternal Life with Sincerity and Urgency

Our journey begins with the Rich Young Ruler's urgent question: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Like the man, many seek lasting fulfillment beyond this life. Eternal life is the ultimate hope presented by Jesus, yet it is not earned by simple effort or moral achievement alone.

Jesus invites us to examine what drives our spiritual pursuits. The young man's initial posture—running up and kneeling—reflects sincerity and respect. Yet, we will soon discover that sincerity isn't enough if it stops short of true surrender.

Today, consider your own questions about eternal life. Are you seeking it with the same urgency? Are there areas where you rely on your own goodness or possessions? Eternal life is more than a question; it's the invitation to new life through Jesus.







Day 1: 💮 💼 The Search for Eternal Life

Reflect and Apply

1.	What motivates your pursuit of eternal life?
2.	How do you respond when you feel your efforts aren't enough?
3.	Are you willing to approach Jesus with humility like the ruler?







Day 1: 🕙 💼 The Search for Eternal Life

Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about what eternal life means to you personally.
2.	Reflect on a time you sought something earnestly from God.
3.	List areas in your life where you desire spiritual growth.







Day 1: 😶 💼 The Search for Eternal Life

Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for the gift of eternal life. Help me to approach You with a sincere heart, ready to listen and learn. Teach me where I place my trust, and reveal the areas I need to surrender. Open my eyes to Your ways as I seek to follow You more closely. *Amen.* \bigwedge \Longrightarrow \square















Your Verse

Mark 10:19 - 'You know the commandments: "You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother."'

Supporting Scriptures

- Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother..."
- Deuteronomy 5:17 "You shall not murder."







Devotional: Beyond Rules: Obedience from the Heart

Jesus reminds the Rich Young Ruler of the commandments, focusing on moral and relational duties foundational to God's covenant. These commandments reflect God's design for a just and loving community.

By listing these, Jesus tests the ruler's understanding of obedience. The man confidently asserts he has kept them since youth, showcasing his moral life. But Jesus hints there is more—something deeper than rule-keeping.

Obedience to commandments is essential, yet Jesus calls us beyond mere rule-following to heart transformation. Real discipleship entails righteousness that flows from love and surrender, not checklist compliance.







Reflect and Apply

1.	Do you find yourself obeying rules outwardly but struggling inwardly?
2.	How do God's commandments shape your daily decisions?
3.	What might Jesus want you to surrender beyond moral obedience?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about how you feel when reminded of God's commandments.
2.	Describe your relationship with obedience—joyful, reluctant, or other.
3.	Identify any 'rules' that you rely on more than relationship with God.







Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for Your holy commandments. Help me obey not out of obligation, but with a heart transformed by Your love. Show me where I cling to rules and where surrender is needed. Teach me to live with integrity and devotion. *Amen.*









Day 3: 🐧 The Cost of Surrender









Day 3: 5 The Cost of Surrender

Your Verse

Mark 10:21 - 'Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Supporting Scriptures

- Luke 14:33 "In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples."
- Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."







Day 3: 5 The Cost of Surrender

Devotional: Loving Jesus Enough to Let Go

Jesus' response to the ruler is tender yet challenging—He looks at him with love and calls him to surrender everything. The demand to sell possessions and give to the poor is not a mere financial transaction but a call to total abandonment of earthly security.

This moment reveals the core obstacle in the young man's heart. Possessions were more than things; they represented identity, security, and control. Jesus invites him—and us—to find true security in Him alone.

Discipleship costs everything but promises treasures that do not fade. Today, reflect on what possessions, habits, or attitudes you may need to surrender. True freedom is found when our hearts are free from attachments that hinder following Jesus.







Day 3: 🐧 The Cost of Surrender

Reflect and Apply

1.	What does surrender look like in your life right now?
2.	Are there things or people you find hard to 'sell' or give up?
3.	How does Jesus' love motivate you to release control?







Day 3: 🐧 The Cost of Surrender

Journaling Prompts

1.	List possessions or priorities that hold your heart captive.
2.	Write about your emotions when contemplating surrender.
3.	Describe how you imagine life fully surrendered to Jesus.







Day 3: 5 The Cost of Surrender

Prayer for Today

Jesus, I hear Your call to surrender all. Help me to trust You enough to release what holds me back. Transform my heart to value Your kingdom above all else. Teach me what it means to follow You daily with joy and freedom. *Amen.*

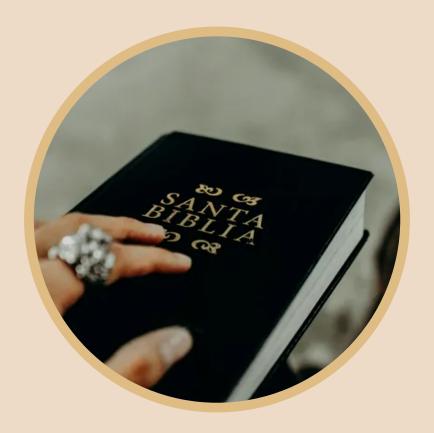








Day 4: Struggling with Wealth and Trust









Your Verse

Mark 10:23 - 'Jesus said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"'

Supporting Scriptures

- Luke 18:25 "Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."
- 1 Timothy 6:10 "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil..."







Devotional: When Wealth Challenges Faith and Trust

Jesus' words acknowledge a deep truth: wealth can be a barrier to trusting God fully. The man's riches, rather than serving God's purposes, had become a weight making discipleship difficult.

Riches are not inherently evil, but the attachment to them can easily displace God from the center of our lives. Jesus reminds His followers that the kingdom requires placing ultimate trust in Him rather than material security.

Reflect on your own relationship with wealth, comfort, or status. Are they helping or hindering your walk with Jesus? Recognizing this tension is essential to living a surrendered life.







Reflect and Apply

1.	How does wealth or success affect your relationship with God?
2.	What fears arise when thinking about surrendering possessions?
3.	In what ways can you cultivate trust in Jesus above resources?







Journaling Prompts

Write honestly about your feelings toward money and possessions.
Describe moments when wealth tempted or distracted you spiritually.
Create a plan to practice generosity or simplicity this week.







Prayer for Today

Lord, teach me to trust You above all riches. Help me to see wealth through Your eyes and not be enslaved by it. Give me courage to release control and grow in dependence on You. Lead me in Your kingdom ways. *Amen.* 💸 🙏 🥬

















Your Verse

Mark 10:28 - 'Then Peter spoke up, "We have left everything to follow you!""

Supporting Scriptures

- Luke 9:23 "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."
- John 15:5 "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit..."







Devotional: Counting the Cost and Committing Fully

Peter's declaration underscores the radical commitment of Jesus' disciples: leaving everything behind. True discipleship is a daily journey marked by sacrifice, denial of self, and wholehearted devotion.

Following Jesus is not simply about one-time decisions but a continual process of aligning our lives with His will. It involves surrender, obedience, and trust even when the path is challenging.

Reflect today on what 'leaving everything' means for you personally. How does Jesus invite you to deeper commitment? Remember, you are not alone—He walks with you and empowers your steps.







Reflect and Apply

What have you 'left behind' to follow Jesus?
Are there new areas you feel called to surrender?
How can you rely on Jesus daily in your walk of faith?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Recall when you first committed to follow Jesus; write about it.
2.	List areas where God is inviting you to deeper trust.
3.	Pray about one step you can take toward fuller discipleship.







Prayer for Today

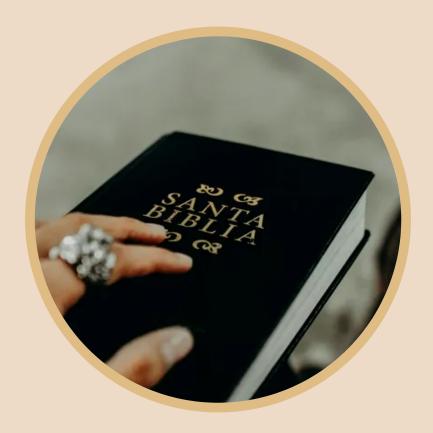
Jesus, thank You for inviting me on this journey. Help me to deny myself and follow You every day. Strengthen me to leave behind what hinders and to trust Your guidance. May my life reflect Your love and purpose. *Amen.* \bigwedge \heartsuit \bigcirc

















Day 6: Promise of Reward

Your Verse

Mark 10:29-30 - "Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age...and in the age to come, eternal life."

Supporting Scriptures

- Matthew 19:29 "Whoever has left houses or brothers...for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life."
- Hebrews 11:6 "...without faith it is impossible to please God."







Day 6:
 Jesus' Promise of Reward

Devotional: Hope and Reward in God's Kingdom

Jesus reassures those who choose to surrender everything for His sake that their sacrifices are not in vain. There are blessings both present and eternal for those who follow Him faithfully.

This promise encourages perseverance and faith. The kingdom of God offers rewards that surpass worldly measures, including a deep, abiding relationship with God and eternal life.

Today, reflect on the balance of sacrifice and promise. How do Jesus' words inspire you to endure challenges for the sake of the gospel?







Day 6:
 Jesus' Promise of Reward

Reflect and Apply

What motivates you to keep following Jesus despite difficulties?
How do you understand Jesus' promise of 'a hundred times as much'?
In what ways have you experienced God's blessings in your journey?







Day 6:
 Jesus' Promise of Reward

Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about a time God rewarded your faithfulness.
2.	Describe what 'eternal life' means to you personally.
3.	List daily ways you can live in hope of God's promises.







Day 6: Veg Jesus' Promise of Reward

Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for Your faithful promises. Help me to trust Your rewards even when I cannot see them now. Strengthen my faith to persevere, knowing You are my eternal reward and joy. *Amen.* 💸 🙏 👽

















Day 7: **☆** Embracing True Treasure

Your Verse

Mark 10:31 - 'But many who are first will be last, and the last first.'

Supporting Scriptures

- Matthew 20:16 "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."
- Revelation 21:4 "He will wipe every tear from their eyes..."







Day 7: 🛠 Embracing True Treasure

Devotional: Living with Kingdom Perspective and Hope

Jesus concludes with a reminder that God's kingdom often reverses worldly expectations. Those who seem 'last' in this life will be 'first' in His eternal kingdom.

True treasure is found in surrender, humility, and faithful following, not in status or possessions. This reversal invites us to lay down pride and self-reliance.

As you finish this study, ask God to help you walk in the humility and grace that reflects His kingdom. Embrace the hope of a future where all is made new, and every sacrifice is honored.







Day 7: 🛠 Embracing True Treasure

Reflect and Apply

How can you embrace humility in your daily life?
What worldly values do you need to rethink in light of God's kingdom?
How does hope in eternal life affect your present choices?







Day 7: 🛠 Embracing True Treasure

Journaling Prompts

1.	Reflect on how God has reversed expectations in your life.
2.	Write about what it means to be 'first' in God's kingdom.
3.	Pray for strength to live with a kingdom mindset each day.







Day 7: **☆** Embracing True Treasure

Prayer for Today

Father, help me to live with kingdom eyes. Teach me humility and faith as I follow Jesus. Remind me of Your eternal promises and help me to trust Your perfect plans. May my life be a reflection of Your grace and hope. *Amen.*







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