**Pastor Berry Ross January 7, 2024**

**The Danger** **Of A Crowded Heart**

Matthew 19:16-30

**Key Truth:** In order to find true and lasting peace, we must have a heart that is fully available and devoted to Jesus Christ.

**Right Question Wrong Response:**

1. The young man, even though he was rich, still didn’t have true

fulfillment.

2. He had a wrong perspective of God and goodness.

A. Our goodness can never equate to righteousness before

God. Isaiah 64:6

3. Jesus was trying to get the young man to look inwardly at his

heart.

4. Jesus gave Him the prescription for his crowded heart.

5. The Young man refused the invitation and requirement to

eternal live. Matthew 16:24-26

**Jesus Gives The True Meaning Of Riches:**

1. True riches is found in an obedient relationship with Jesus

Christ. Matthew 5:3

2. True riches is not in what you possess but what you give away

to the glory of God’s Kingdom. 1 Timothy 6:17-19

3. Material riches can give a person a false sense of security and

self-worth.

**The Disciples Learn A Valuable Truth:**

1. A person’s value in God is not determined by their net worth.

2. Salvation isn’t what we earn but what we are freely given by

God. Ephesians 2:8-9

3. Heaven will make every sacrifice worth it.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Give your heart fully to Jesus Christ. Trust Jesus to determine and to provide the life He has called you to live for His Kingdom and glory.

**Food For Thought:**

From the outside, it seems the young man has it all together. He is rich (a sign of blessing in the Jewish culture), he has a humble approach to God, and he seems to follow the law. Jesus, knowing his heart, gives him a shocking response – He asks him to sell all of his possessions and to then come follow Him. What do the verses below teach us about our hearts and priorities as followers of Jesus?

Matthew 7:21-27

Luke 14:26-27

John 13:34-35

What was inherently wrong with the question the rich young ruler asked Jesus?

What “good” things do people today commonly think they must do to go to heaven?

Read Luke 19:1-9: What similarities do you see between the rich young ruler and Zacchaeus’ story? How are their steps of obedience different?