

INTRO

- Do you think New Year resolutions are effective? Explain why/why not.
- What are some of your goals or new year's resolutions for 2018?

Whether you set goals or not, what is essential is to be resolved about important things:

re-solved : firmly determined to do something.

Today we discuss being resolved to put God First.

READ

Mark 10:17-22

REFLECT

Qu: If life is from God and made to be lived with and for God, why do you think it is hard for us to live that way?

In both Deut 6:5 and Matt 22:37-38, we see the essence of life: **Total love and devotion to God**. So why is it so hard to do?

In the encounter of Jesus with the Rich Young Man we gain insight into the human condition we all struggle with. But first let's consider this Rich Young Man. He is:

- passionate & bold (runs up to Jesus)
- humble & respectful (kneels before Jesus)
- sincere & teachable (asks a good question)
- morally upright (kept all the commands)
- offered a place in Jesus inner circle of disciples!

It appears this man has a lot going for him. But we read in v21:

And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing..."

Qu: How did Jesus show his love for this man?

Jesus loves us enough to expose our hearts, not to embarrass or condemn us, but rather to lead

us into repentance and greater trust in him. Sadly, this man placed too much value in his own self-righteousness and possessions and walked away from Jesus.

Qu: what is the one thing he lacked?

The one thing he lacked was the most important thing: Jesus being of ultimate value to him. Something else is first, essential and given the place of God in his life.

Qu: How are we like the Rich Young Man?

Putting God first means valuing Jesus above all else at the core of who you are. Its absolute trust in him and his goodness, such that as he calls you to follow him wholeheartedly, you willingly abandon anything that would prevent you from doing so.

HOW DO WE PUT GOD FIRST?

God will never be first in my life until he is central to all of my life. It means looking at all aspects of our lives and asking:

Does God have anything clear to say for the various areas of my life? What am I called to do everywhere at all times as a follower of Jesus? What's the primary purpose of my life?

Practically...resolve to:

- keep the one thing the main thing: Jesus
- grow in Jesus through daily trust, prayer & bible
- not do this alone

RESPOND

- What was most encouraging/challenging from today's discussion?
- How will you apply this to your life?

PRAY

- Resolve to make Jesus first & central in your life in 2018.