

INTRO

- What is something you are really excited about in your life right now?
- How would you describe idolatry to someone who has no belief in God or religion?

READ

Mark 10:17-22

REFLECT

Jesus' interaction with the Rich Young Ruler provides a good case study for us to see how idols in our lives draw us away from following Jesus wholeheartedly.

An idol can be anything we look to more than God for our happiness, meaning in life, and identity. **The heart of our problem is the problem of our heart.**

DESIRE: WORSHIP OR IDOLATRY?

Human beings are created as worshippers. To worship means to love, trust and serve *something*. Idols compete with God in trying to gain our love, trust and service. The result is, our lives begin to take the shape of what we value and desire most. Proverbs puts it this way:

As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart. (Prov 27:19)

Qu: Read Mk 10:22. Why did the Rich Man walk away disheartened at what Jesus said?

Qu: Is Jesus simply anti-possessions or is something deeper going on? Discuss.

DISCOVER YOUR IDOLS—what do I tend to over-desire in my life?

The deceptiveness of discovering our idolatry is that most often, our desires are for really good things that, left unchecked, take over our lives. For example, family is a very good thing and should be highly valued. However, we can make an idol out of family by over-desiring it: the single person can be consumed with getting married;

children may live to meet their parents expectations; parents can make their children's success and happiness the most important thing in life.

Qu: How can good things like money, career, sex, food etc. quickly become over-desired in our lives?

Qu: what do you think it looks like to love, trust and serve something like money, sex, career etc?

DETHRONING IDOLS—how do we change?

If Scripture tells us the heart of our problem is the sinfulness of our heart, how do we change our hearts?! We don't but the gospel does.

Qu: Read Mark 10:21. From this verse, how does Jesus show this man that he loves him? Why is Jesus asking this man to give everything away and follow Him?

Jesus knows you to your core and loves you. He also knows the best thing you can do with your life is to put him first. Therefore, he will not share that place in your life with anyone or anything else. He looks at you and says, 'you choose'.

Our hearts change when we choose to love, trust and serve Jesus despite the strong appeal of our idols. As we do this, Jesus gets our attention, affection and allegiance.

Qu: is your love for, trust in, and obedience to Jesus growing stronger or weaker? Why?

Qu: How can you practice what you learned today?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for God's help in revealing idols or potential idols in your life.
- Pray for one another to be more captivated by the worth, value and beauty of Jesus.