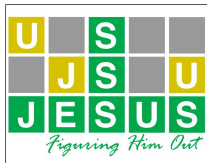


MARINERS CHURCH



The God Bottle May 1, 2022

"In the beginning, God created the heavens & the earth." Genesis 1:1

"And behold, a man came up to Him, saying, 'Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?'" Matthew 19:16

"And He said to him, 'Why do you ask Me about what is good? There is only One who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.' He said to him, 'Which ones?' And Jesus said, 'You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' The young man said to Him, 'All these I have kept. What do I still lack?'" Matthew 19:17-20

"Jesus said to him, 'If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.'" Matthew 19:21

"When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions." Matthew 19:22

Talk it Over! For my thoughts and LifeGroup*

1) How often do you relate to the young guy in the message today? Maybe you feel like you've got everything in life figured out but there's an emptiness that just seems to nag you, make you worried that it isn't enough & that you really don't know God at all? How do you deal with these kinds of feelings?

2) Have you ever brought your list of accomplishments to someone (maybe to a job interview or your family or a group of friends) because you were proud of what you've done & walked away sad because you weren't received with appreciation or awe?

Would anyone feel comfortable sharing their experience with the group?

3) Read Matthew 19:16-22 together.

4) What sticks out to you from this passage?

In the message Curt said that we were all created by God for a purpose. That purpose is to have a relationship with Him. Sin has destroyed what God originally intended. Through Jesus God has made a way for everyone who believes to be forgiven & have a new start. The young man in the story today had built a life on his own terms. He was even religious (by keeping "the rules") but he did not know God personally.

5) What kind of things do you think people today have filled their lives with that keep them from knowing God personally?

6) By simply raising your hand, how many of you think you have something other than God in your "God bottle"?

7) Do you think Jesus is telling us to leave our jobs, neglect our families & throw off all responsibility to follow Him? What do you think Jesus is telling this young man (& us!)?

The passage ends by saying the young man went away sad (with sorrow) because he had built his life for his satisfaction. Ultimately, we don't know what decision he made (to ignore God or to follow His words) but he seemed to wrestle with the decision.

8) How often do you wrestle with God's Word? Does it challenge you to become a better follower of Jesus or do you most often ignore it & continue to build life on your own terms?

9) What can we do as a group to encourage & hold each other accountable for hearing & responding to Jesus' words appropriately?

Close your group by praying with & for each other.

*A LifeGroup is a group of people who are committed to loving each other and growing through the ups and downs of life. For more information, connect with the church, marinerschurch@marinerscc.org