

### ENTER THE TEXT

Jesus is traveling through southern Palestine on his way to Jerusalem. This trip will culminate in his death and resurrection. As he journeys, Jesus makes the most of every opportunity to do ministry. Jericho, a rich agricultural town and popular resort for royalty and priests was in Jesus' path. In these two passages we explore Jesus' encounters with two people along the way.

### READ LUKE 18.18-30

#### REFLECT ON SCRIPTURE

- The ruler asks the most important question of all in v.18. What false assumptions does his question reveal?
- Why does Jesus answer, "No one is good but God alone"? What is he saying about himself?
- Is there any significance to the commandments Jesus chose to list or for the ones he leaves out?
- How does Jesus respond in v.22? Why does he ask the ruler to sell all that he has?
- The ruler went away sad, not defensive or angry. Why do you think he had this reaction?
- Why is it so hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of God?
- Why do those who witnessed this interaction ask the question in v.26?
- According to Jesus, salvation is not only "hard" but "impossible" without God. Why?
- Why might Peter react as he does in v.28?
- Looking at Jesus' reply, what is the cost and benefit of following him?

#### SUMMARIZE

The rich ruler is excited about following Jesus until he learns the cost. Jesus hones in on the man's biggest need: to rely on God and not himself or his wealth. It wasn't about giving his money away. It was about destroying his idol. Jesus' cure for this idol is to give it away and invite the man to rely on him instead.

#### TRANSITION

As we seek to disciple our students, if we are ignoring this part of their lives and ignoring this idol then we are failing to fully disciple them. Luke follows this story up with a different response to money.

### READ LUKE 19.1-10

#### REFLECT ON SCRIPTURE

- In the first six verses, what do you notice about Zacchaeus?
- What kind of reputation might a chief tax collector develop in a town like this?
- What do you notice about Zacchaeus' posture toward Jesus?
- What seems to be going on inside Zacchaeus by the end of this encounter? How is he transformed by Jesus? What might be some of the far-reaching effects of his transformation on both Zacchaeus and the other people in his community?
- How does Zacchaeus' story contrast to the story of the Rich Young Ruler?

#### SUMMARIZE

Zacchaeus' life is transformed by Jesus. We see evidence of that as he rights the economic wrongs he has committed and his generous and joyful giving away of wealth. This story illustrates God's expectation of stewardship and investing what He has given us well. Not to mention the fact that generosity is the evidence of God's work in our lives.

#### APPLYING THE WORD

This is why partnership is important for our alumni (and not just financial partnership). This is not only about funding our ministry. This is about discipleship as we invite our alumni to be generous with their time, talent and treasure by becoming life-long partners in the Gospel advancing on campus. That is a life full of joy and freedom!

#### REFLECT & PRAY

Ask God to begin to reveal what He is inviting you into coming out of these passages.