

Sermon-Based Discussion

Date 1/22/23 Pastor Corby Burkholder

Watch the sermon at manheimbic.org/sermon.



BIBLE PASSAGES

Matthew 19:16-22

The Rich Young Man

¹⁶And behold, a man came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” ¹⁷And 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.” ¹⁸He 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, ¹⁹Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁰The young man said to him, “All these I have kept. What do I still lack?” ²¹Jesus 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.” ²²When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Luke 8:4-15

The Parable of the Sower

⁴And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, ⁵“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

The Purpose of the Parables

9And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, **10**he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' **11**Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. **12**The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. **13**And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. **14**And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. **15**As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

Use these notes as discussion prompts for your group, or in your personal time with God.

Connect:

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, fellowship.

Care:

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

Challenge:

1. What other stories from scripture do you know where someone is seeking clarity? What can we learn from these examples?
2. Why do you think that sometimes we reject the answers we are given, like the young ruler did?
3. Do you have any example from your life where you responded like this young ruler, walking away when you didn't hear what you wanted?
4. Why is it important to seek clarity on how to "be the church" as we navigate being on Mission in our communities?
5. Are there things in our small group that we need to bring clarity to? How do we gain that clarity?
6. Are you wrestling with any big questions about God, faith, or your mission, that we as a group could discuss and seek clarity on together?

Clarify:

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

Celebrate:

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS