

# BIBLE SMASH!

**Study:** Matthew 19:16-26, Psalm 111

**Memorize:** Psalm 111:5

**Notes:**

# Analyze: The background information...

## Topic: God as the provider

### Matthew 19:16-26

In verse 16 we have a man that sought out Jesus for questioning. (Based on verses in Luke and Mark we believe he was a rich young ruler). The man refers to Jesus as a teacher, someone that has knowledge, but not as Lord - like the rest of the disciples refer to him as. So we can gather that he is an “outsider” to the group that commonly follows Jesus around. Although rich, he is still concerned about his eternal salvation - where will he spend eternity when he dies?

Jesus’ response in verse 18 shows us that Jesus is a Mosaic law abiding Jew and that Jesus has come to support the law, not to replace it. When the man asks which laws to obey Jesus answer comes from Exodus 20:13-20. (This shows the value of scripture memorization)

Because the man is claiming to have kept all the commandments we can deduce that his is currently a law abiding Jew. Even with all that he still feels that there is something missing in his life. (This feeling could be a conviction led by the Holy Spirit) Even though he has met the “legal” requirements of first century Jewdiism he asks, “What do I still lack?”

To be “perfect” he is told he must sell all his possessions and give them to the poor and then come and follow Jesus.

By perfect we understand Jesus to mean - above ordinary. You are no longer trying to be the person that “just gets by” but rather you are trying to be the person that really wants to follow Jesus wholly and completely. (In our Nazarene doctrine it might be referred to as the point of entire sanctification). It does not mean the person would be perfect is in sinless but it would be appoint of total consecration of ones life to be used by God.

The man leaves in sorrow. Not willing to make the total commitment it takes to follow Jesus. ...and Jesus does not chase him. There is not “Wait, let’s make a deal. I really want you on my side. How about if you just sell most of your stuff then come and follow me?”. God wants all or nothing. (And is sending Jesus Christ he has given his all to us.)

When Jesus tells his disciples that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye for a needle than for a rich man to get into heaven he means just that. The camel was the largest land animal known in that area (although elephants were known in palestine) and the eye of a needle would have been the smallest appiture known in a house hold item. There was legend that came to be in the midievil days about an small entrance in the Jerusalem wall called the Needle’s Eye. Legend has it the a loaded camel could not pass through the gate, but if it removed all it’s packs (possessions) and crawled on it’s knees (humbling itself) and tried real hard it could then fit through the gate. While this would work great for

illustration purposes - there never was such a gate or entrance in the Jerusalem wall.

As long as there is something that comes between you and God, and you are aware of it, and you do nothing about it, you can not get into heaven. Once Jesus made this young man aware of what was causing him to lack total commitment the man was now responsible for taking the next step. Removing what was keeping him from following Christ. ...and in the process it would have helped the less fortunate!

In verse 26 Jesus is telling us that we (mankind) can not save our eternal lives on our own- no matter what we do. It is an act of God. And anything is possible for God. Only God can save someone's eternity, and he does that to anyone that commits their life to him.

## **Psalm 111**

Psalm 111 is a song of praise that lists reasons we should praise God. It is a very personal praise ("with all my heart") but is not private ("in the assembly").

Verse 2 is stating that those that are happy with God's works (including his instructions) study God's word. The fact that you are reading this and there are students at this Bible study shows that you and your students enjoy learning and studying God's word. You are doing what verse 2 is talking about.

Verse 4 refers to, but is not limited

to, God leading his people out of the bondage of slavery they once felt in Egypt. We, too, should remember the good things God has done in our lives - including saving us from eternal punishment by sending his son to die for us so that we can be forgiven of our sins.

The last few verses talk about how God is faithful and loyal to us and about how he expects us to be faithful and loyal to him. He behaves as he wants us to behave. The song then ends, as it began, with a praise to God.

The complete dedication of the self to God is the essence of praise, and as such, it involves obedience. God's salvation is a gift from God - we did not earn it. Our response to that gift should be a whole hearted praise and obedience to the will of God.

True knowledge and wisdom comes from God. To know that we need to study God (the Bible) and to receive that we need to be obedient to the call of God on our lives.

**Share:** Is there anything that you have learned that you would like to share with others or anything that have learned from listening to someone else share? Write it here...

# **Honor: A Thought**

**Self sufficiency leads to independence.**

**The less we have, the more we need to depend on God.**

**The more we depend on God, the more he is able to give to us.**

# Leader's Guide: Questions for discussion...

## Matthew 19:16-26

When asking these questions allow for each student to answer. Allow them to dream and fantasize a little about what it might be like to be a rich ruler. Don't get ahead of your self and lead them to a certain point - let them be honest. The questions are sequentially intended to show that with lots of money God usually gets pushed out of the picture.

- 1) Imagine that as you were walking home one day from school there was a large crowd gathered around your house. As you got closer you noticed a couple of police cars and some reporters. What types of thoughts would be running through your mind?
- 2) As you approach the house the news reporters start taking pictures of you and asking you, "How does it feel to be the king? (or queen)" A few men in suits walk you in to your living room where you see your parents sitting on the couch. You're parents seem very happy and nervous at the same time. You are seated with your parents and a legal representative informs for that a distant relative has passed away. One so distant that you didn't even know the person existed. They continue to tell you that your relative was a wealthy ruler in another country, a very, very wealthy ruler. He died in a tragic accident that also took the lives of his family members. Of all the distant relatives you have been selected to replace him as the ruler of the country. Now what thoughts are running through your mind?
- 3) ...it is now 5 years later. You have moved to your country. Your family and some of your closest friends to live with you. With an abundance of money, what types of changes would you have made in your life? What would you buy or do different? Would you have servants, cars, many houses, animals... just what would you do with all that money?
- 4) ...it is now 20 years later. What would you have done? Would you get married and have kids? Would you pay for their college and educations and buy them nice gifts? What might life be like around the age 40?
- 5) Of everything that you have done as a ruler. Which things would GUARANTEE you a place in heaven? (The answer should be none. We can only enter heaven because of what God has done for us - not because we were just a good person. Anyone can accept Christ as their savior - there is no financial status involved in getting in to heaven. Unless you have very compassionate students in your group probably most of the answers given in questions 2-4 were probably self centered or self pleasing)

- 6) When we don't have to rely on God in this life to support us how does that make it difficult to become a Christian?
- 7) When the rich young man walked away from Jesus did Jesus chase that guy and try to stop him? Why not? Did Jesus say, "don't go away - let's work out a deal. Just sell some of your stuff and give it to the poor and then follow me?" Why not? Would that have been a good idea to make a deal? Explain your answer. Do you like people that are totally your friend and committed to you or only sort of your friend?
- 8) Can you start to understand why Jesus said it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven? The more you have, the more you have to give up, the harder it is. Having money is not evil - it's that attitude about the money that is evil. Money can be a very controlling power, and an easy power for Satan to use - money can grant immediate results - new car, new house, new cloths - it can even pretend to grant friends, as long as they can keep getting stuff from you.

## **Psalm 111**

- 1) Name as many things as you can think of to praise God for that have nothing to do with money. Things not to name would be a house, car, or video games. Things that you could name would be a good relationship with parents, my friend Eddie, or good health.
- 2) When is the last time you praised and thanked God in private for providing these things? When is the last time you praised and thanked God in public for providing these things? (if the answer is "never" or "not in a long time" then talk about the reasons why. Maybe they are too shy or may you or your church are not providing an opportunity for this to happen - learn from your students)
- 3) How do you spend your spare time? Watching TV, playing with your friends, on the internet? Do you consistently do devotions? (If the answer is no - here in an opportunity to create accountability partners) If the answer is yes, do you study the Bible when you do your devotions or do you just do them as fast as you can to get them out of the way?
- 4) What does it mean to fear God? (Respect for the sovereignty of God) Is it good or bad to fear God? (In this case, it is a good thing.) God should not be a "buddy" we hang out with but a "mentor" we respect and look up to.

## General Question

- 1) Some people think that having lots of money means having less to worry about. Do you think this is true or false and why?
- 2) Is it okay to have lots of money? Is it okay to work hard to get lots of money? When we work hard to get lots of money who are we relying on? (ourselves) Do you think this pleases God?
- 3) According to Plasm 111:5 who will provide for us? Once our basic needs are covered (food, clothing, shelter) how do you think God would feel if we spent more of our free time studying the Bible trying to get to know him better and his will for our lives?
- 4) Do you need to spend ALL our free time studying the Bible? No, it is good to have time to relax and have fun and be with other people. In fact - if you remember the lesson on the Sabbath, do you think you should take a break from devotions on the Sabbath? (There is not a right or wrong answer and I am certainly not suggesting that anyone stop their devotional pattern) Maybe on the Sabbath you just spend time with God listening to him and talking to him - that is one way he provides for us, by spending time with us.
- 5) Discuss the the sentences in the Honor section (page 5) and lastly read out loud Matthew 6:25-33 before ending in prayer.

## Credit

Brian Bollinger  
Early Youth and Junior High Youth Pastor  
Wollaston Church of the Nazarene  
37 East Elm Avenue  
Quincy, MA 02170  
617.472.5669  
[www.brianbollinger.com](http://www.brianbollinger.com)

## Permission

Permission is granted to use this Bible SMASH for not-for-profit use only. You may download and photocopy this lesson for your Bible study (or other personal use). When making copies of this lesson please make sure to include the "Credits" and "Permission" sections with the copies. For permission to use this lesson in a for-profit situation or for publication please contact the person(s) listed in the "Credit" section. Thank you and enjoy the lesson.