

Matthew 19:16-30

Tell you a story

- Young man –
 - rich
 - Local celebrity
 - Approached Jesus – looking for a Guru
 - Wanted him to tell him an amazing truth
 - The secret of eternal life
 - Today we might want to know
 - Meaning of life
 - Secret of eternal youth
 - How to live forever
 - Wanted a new wisdom – from the Guru
-
- Why do you call me good?
 - Only God is good!
 - Jesus' great words of wisdom are – what does the law say?
-
- Now the young man – is looking for higher wisdom
 - Special wisdom
 - News wisdom
 - Wants to know what one in particular he should be focusing on
 - Which one is the most important
-
- Jesus lists murder
 - Adultery

- Stealing
 - Lying
 - Mother and father
 - Love of neighbour
- Interesting the ones, he omits
 - Coveting
 - Love of idols
- Man replies – possibly a bit impatient now
- I have done all this!
- Come on Jesus get to the good stuff the secret stuff
- I know all of this
- Is this all you have?
- What is so special about this guy he is thinking
- Okay Jesus says – now you need to complete the set
- The young man is probably thinking – great now we are getting to the good stuff the real wisdom
- Sell all you have and give it away
- And follow me
- He was expecting some new powerful wisdom
- What Jesus gave him was something utterly profound
- But utterly simple
- Sadly, this is not what the young man wanted
- This was way too costly
- Because he loved money
- Money brought him power
- Influence
- He loved money – he idolised money

- He coveted more money
- He had friends because of his money
- Sell everything – give it all up
- No, he was not going to do that
- Money was his idol
- So he had to get rid of it
 - Money may not be our idol
 - It might be the perfect partner
 - A good job
 - That perfect house
 - Fame
 - Owning more stuff
 - Make idols of themselves
- Money was his idol – and so Jesus told him to get rid of it
- But he couldn't so he walked away

- The man came looking for wisdom
- But what he met was not both too simple and too hard
- Jesus then reveals the truth he was after – once he had gone
- So much so they disciples were amazed at what he was teaching
- Camel, eye of a needle
- Tried to explain it
 - Gate in Jerusalem called the needle's eye
 - Word for rope similar to a camel
- The truth is again simple
- Cannot serve two masters
- Love of God or love of money are incompatible
- Bob Dylan song – serve somebody

- Many of us are slaves to money
- Whether we have too much or too little
- We serve it
- We idolise it and covet it
- The disciples then question Jesus
- How can anyone be saved?
- Everything is possible for God
- With God both the rich and the poor can be saved
- Two types of people in this story
- Peter then points out that they have given up so much already
- In the upside down Kingdom of God – they have done the right thing
- Hunting party story
- Those who consider themselves important
- Like the rich ruler – will be last
- Those who give up everything for God
- Will be first

Where are you in this story

- The rich fool – clinging onto your idols
- A disciple who had given up everything already
- An eaves dropper not sure what you want to be?

Let's pray....