

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Lectionary Title 15: **Jesus' Encounters with the Powerful and Wealthy**  
Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

## **Jesus and the Rich Man** (Based on Mark 10:17-25)



One day, a rich young man asks Jesus, "Good Teacher, what must I do to enter the Kingdom of God?"

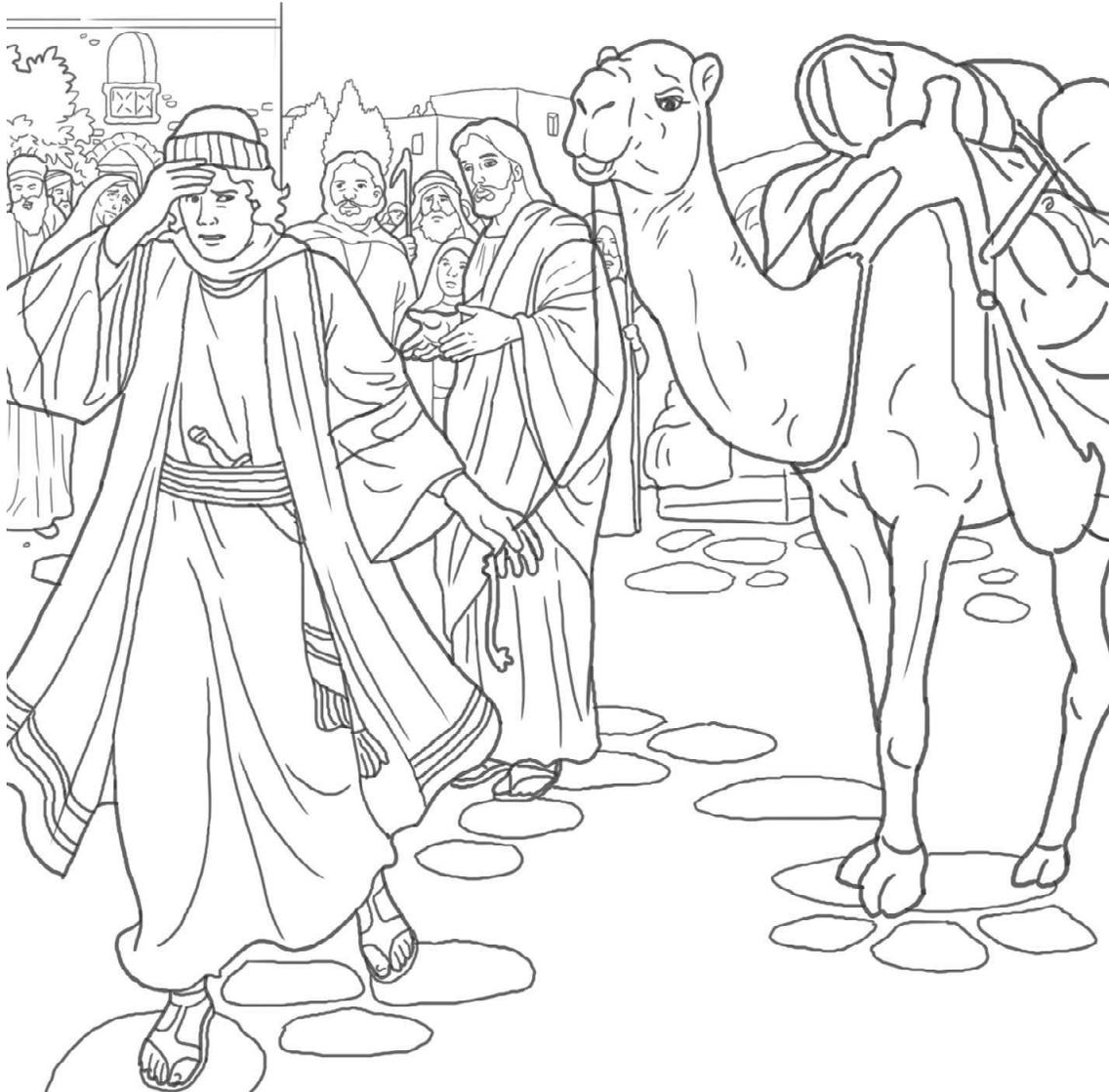
Jesus answers, "Do you follow the commandments of God?"

The rich young man answers, "I always obey the commandments of God."

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Jesus looks at him and says, "Sell your riches and share them to the poor."



The rich man wants to obey Jesus. But he is so rich and he does not want to share his riches to the poor. He becomes very sad and leaves Jesus.

Jesus says, "It is very difficult for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God."

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 Middle Elementary Level

Answer these questions.

1. Was this young man a good person? Why?

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\_\_\_\_\_

2. Did this young man love Jesus with His whole heart? Why?

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3. Why would Jesus ask us to give up our things for Him?

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4. Why do you think obedience is an important ingredient in entering God's kingdom?

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5. Why do you think Jesus says that it is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God?

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\_\_\_\_\_

Read these possessions. Think of how you can share these things with others who are in need. Explain your answers.

Possessions	To whom you can share them to show your concern for others
1. Clothes	
2. Shoes	
3. Gadgets	
4. Gifts	
5. Food	

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**Older Elementary Level**

Answer these questions.

1. Was this young man a good person? Why?

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2. Did this young man love Jesus with His whole heart? Why?

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3. Why would Jesus ask us to give up our things for Him?

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4. Why do you think obedience is an important ingredient in entering God's kingdom?

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5. Why do you think Jesus says that it is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God?

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List your treasures on the first column. Then choose the person that you can share these treasures and write these persons in the second column.

Possessions	To whom you can share them to show your concern for others
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

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Youth Level

Find your group. Read the biblical texts using the given guide questions. Discuss the answers with the other members of the group. Then share creatively your thoughts.

Group 1. Psalm 72:1-7

1. Who wrote this psalm?
2. What does he pray for the king?
3. What can happen when a king rules with God's righteousness?

Group 2. Mark 10:17-22

1. Who came to see Jesus? Why did he visit Jesus?
2. How did Jesus answer him?
3. Why did he leave with a sad face?

Answer these questions.

1. Why do you think the rich young man asked Jesus for the most precious gift?

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2. Why do you think the rich young man refuse God's offer?

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3. Why do you think Jesus wants the rich young man to understand the real meaning of God's salvation?

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4. Why does Jesus consider repentance and justice important to inherit eternal life?

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5. Why do you think Jesus commented that it is difficult for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God?

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Complete this table.

<b>Life Treasures 10 years ago</b>	<b>Reasons and Insights for choice</b>	<b>Life Treasures today</b>	<b>Reasons and Insights for choice</b>
1.			
2.			
3.			

Read the sentences and share your thoughts.

1. Psalm 72:1-7 foretell the characteristics of a righteous king and leader as will be manifested by Jesus, the coming Messiah.
2. The verses in Mark 10:17-22 tell about the request of the most precious gift of God to humankind—His salvation. It was a free gift through the grace of God. However, the young man refused this gift because he could not part with his riches.
3. Mark lived during the Roman regime where there were a few rich and powerful while so many were poor and struggling because of very unequal distribution of wealth. In the Gospel of Mark (and in the other two synoptic gospels, Matthew and Luke), Jesus tells the rich to sell their possessions and share their riches with the poor. The readers also need to consider the danger of the rich and powerful in making their riches their god and their life's treasures their life.
4. While the rich young man confessed that he followed the commandments, yet he missed some important values while following these commandments—equitable sharing of God's resources, compassion for the needy, kindness to the weak and helpless, and trust in God for the sufficiency of his needs on earth. Without these values, it is really difficult to follow Jesus.