
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022

The Control Trap

- I. Introduction
 - A. Do you prefer to be the driver or the passenger?
 - B. What are you holding on to in life?
- II. The Rich Young Ruler (Luke 18:18-25 NIV)
 - A. He approached Jesus
 - B. Who was he?
 - 1. Matthew says that he was young, so likely between 20-40
 - 2. Luke says that he was a ruler, either of the synagogue or even the Sanhedrin.
 - 3. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all write that he was rich
 - C. He was a rare individual at that time because most were poor and oppressed.
 - D. He wanted to inherit a place in God's kingdom
 - 1. The Jewish people believed that one day God would bring His kingdom to earth.
 - 2. He was well-versed in God's law.
 - E. Jesus' request
 - 1. Jesus' invitation to join as a disciple was a genuine invitation.
 - 2. The man had an offer to receive everything he asked for, but he wouldn't take it because of what he had to give up.
- III. Why Did He Reject Jesus?
 - A. Jesus' request cut through the external actions and went right to his heart.
 - B. His possessions were his god. They led his life's choices and actions.
 - C. Losing his wealth could have a cascading effect of losing the life he knew and enjoyed. It was too much risk.
 - D. He couldn't give up control of his life to Jesus.
- IV. The Disconnect
 - A. We cannot control everything in life no matter how hard we try.
 - B. The disconnect between our desire to control and our inability to control is where anger and fear are nurtured.
 - C. The harder we control, the more of what we want slips through our fingers.
 - D. Letting go means turning to a new leader, Christ.
 - 1. The Rich Young Ruler wanted God as an advisor, not a king.
 - 2. We have to trust in God's ability to control and lead more than we trust our own ability.
- V. Leading vs. Following
 - A. We like to lead but hate to follow.

1. There is only one leader in the Christian life.
2. Usurping that role leads to trouble.
- B. Repent and believe
 1. This phrase means more than just be sorry and believe.
 2. Others in the culture used this phrase.
 3. When Jesus used that phrase, He wanted the person to stop following their current leader, turn, and follow Him.
 4. Following Jesus puts our belief into action.

VI. Jesus' Prescription

- A. **Matthew 6:25 (NIV)**
- B. **Matthew 6:33 (NIV)**
 1. To seek the kingdom, you have to seek the King
 2. The things you are searching for come running to you when you trust Jesus' leadership.
- C. **Matthew 6:10 (NIV)**
 1. Jesus prayed this sentiment in the garden.
 2. This is a prayer that welcomes God to be in charge now and in the future.
 3. The more we yield ourselves to God, the greater the yield of blessings will be in our lives.

VII. Are You in the Control Trap?

- A. What is it you refuse to release?
- B. What is keeping you from trusting Jesus as leader?
- C. Don't reject Jesus' blessings because you'd rather hold on to something inferior.