

# Lent devotions

## READ:

Mark 10:17-31 (click to open link)

## REFLECT:

I not rich. But, I have what I need and then some. I can't remember the last time I was hungry because I didn't have financial resources. My children go to great school and have so many opportunities. Sometimes I even get to go on an airplane and go to fun places. So maybe I'm richer than I think.

If Jesus came up and told me to give all my money away and follow him—I don't know what in the heck I would do. The kids need to go to college. I need to retire someday. I can't say I blame the rich, young man for keeping his possessions and walking away from Jesus. I actually sympathize with him.

We never know the rich young man's name. Mark doesn't think it is important. We know other names. Peter and Paul. James and John. James and Jude. Matthew and Andrew. These are the names of the people who gave up everything to follow Jesus. They chose Jesus as their security over their jobs and their financial resources. And they never looked back. Their world was never the same and the world has never the same either.

God is saying it's bad to be rich. God is asking us to follow him and trust in him first. More than our money, power, self-image, or comfort—Jesus says trust me and follow me. I don't want anything between us. Nothing.

## RESPOND:

Many counterfeit gods exist today. Tim Keller identifies pleasing others, money, success, and power as God's current chief rivals. Things that would be difficult for us to give up and follow Jesus.

Which of these counterfeit gods are a struggle for you?

Pleasing Others

Money

Success

Power

Reflect on the following questions:

How have these gods benefitted you?

How have these gods disappointed you?

What is something you need to let go of to trust God more fully and follow Jesus more closely?