



Lesson Six

Jesus Says, “Love God Best”

Heart Preparation

God wants us to put him first. He wants us to forsake *anything* that keeps us from loving him wholeheartedly.

But the rich young man was not prepared to do that when Jesus said, “Follow me.” He wanted to hear that he could earn righteousness to merit entrance into God’s kingdom. He was not ready for a change of heart and God’s gift of salvation.

True, the rich young man had not murdered anyone, or dishonored his parents. He *thought* he had kept the law since he was a boy. But Jesus put his finger on the man’s problem: his love of and trust in his wealth, violating the first and tenth commandment.

Even when faced with the truth, the man was not repentant; he loved and trusted in his riches above everything else. Sadly, he walked away from Jesus, turning his back on the eternal riches of God’s kingdom.

What are the things we treasure most? In the early years, a favorite pet, toy or video game may be most important. Later, toys give way to friendships, the right clothes and cars, the *right* neighborhood, job and so much more. But we must learn—and not forget—that everything we have comes from our heavenly Father, and we are free to use our belongings for God’s *glory* instead of greedily grasping for ourselves and trusting in what will inevitably pass away.

Ask God to help you learn and teach your children that the things we treasure more than God must go. Indeed, we must not love and trust *anything* above God or give anything the place God has. Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you and your children to have trusting, responsive hearts—like the poor widow who gave God all she had. (Luke 21:1–3)

Bible Background

Use of the term *eternal life* primarily refers to the *quality* of life, that is, the life of blessedness. Only secondarily does it refer to the unending *quantity* of life. When the rich young man asked Jesus what he must do to have eternal life, he was asking what he must do to have the life that only God can give, an unending life of blessedness with God himself.



Bible Truth

God’s children are to love him above all else.

Scripture

Mark 10:17–27

Luke 21:1–3



Lesson Focus

God wants us to love him more than any of his gifts to us.

Goals for the Children

- Tell what kept the rich young man from becoming part of God’s family.
- Tell how the poor widow showed her love for God.
- Show love for God by sharing things God has given them.



Memory Minute

Love the Lord your God with all your heart.

Matthew 22:37a