



Enough is our Concordia University Texas theme for the 2023-2024 academic year.

CONNECT

with self and others:

1. Have you ever run out of water while exercising or hiking? Share a story.

2. What's the greatest sacrifice you have made in your life? Do you think more will be required of you if you become a spouse, parent, professional, or leader?

NOTES:

ENGAGE

the Word.

There was a rich young man who wished to undertake a long hike by himself in a remote part of west Texas. He touted to all his friends that he had bought the most expensive hiking gear and had wisely made all the necessary preparations. This included purchasing a high-quality, largecapacity hydration backpack that would certainly hold more than enough water for his hike on an arid trail. When he approached the town nearest the trailhead, he filled the hydration backpack with water, proceeded to the trailhead, and began his hike, totally confident that he had done everything necessary. Unfortunately, he had not tested the integrity of his hydration backpack material in advance of the hike. The bottom of the backpack had a small hole that began to leak slowly. Due to sweating in the hot weather, he had not noticed the leak even as he drank intermittently. When he finally checked his water level, it had dropped more than half. Unfortunately, he was already far from the trailhead.

READ Matthew 19:16-22

Especially verse 20: "The young man said to him, 'All these I have kept. What do I still lack?'"



YOUNG RULER

¹⁶ Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" ¹⁷ "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments." ¹⁸ "Which ones?" he inquired. Jesus replied, "You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, ¹⁹ honor your father and mother,'[a] and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'[b]" 20 "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" ²¹ Jesus answered, "If vou want to be perfect, go, sell vour possessions, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God."

- Matthew 19:16-22

NOTES: _____

In today's story, a rich young man approaches Jesus, asking what good deed he must do to have eternal life. Observing the man's focus on his works, Jesus continues with the Law to highlight the perfect standard of the Ten Commandments. The young man asserts that he has done everything perfectly since childhood. He has made all necessary preparations for this test of integrity with Jesus. In response, Jesus adds a final command that exposes not only the shortcomings of the young man's deeds but also a fatal flaw in the "material" at hand.

Remember the material hole in the water bladder from the story. The "material" of human nature has been corrupted by sin with holes in humanity since the fall of Adam and Eve. Any deeds flowing from human nature cannot meet the perfect standard of God's Law. With Jesus' final command, the Law has its intended effect, since the young man leaves sorrowful, having recognized his failure. The Law ultimately prepares us for the Gospel. Jesus then tells the Good News that what is impossible for people has been accomplished by God. What's enough to save this rich young ruler? God's grace is enough. Jesus directs us to His saving work, having lived a perfect life for us, having taken our punishment on the cross, and having risen victoriously. These gifts are received in the water of Holy Baptism.

QUESTIONS:

1. What personal accomplishments do we mistakenly focus on for our identity, security, and meaning in life?

2. What words of Scripture especially show that our hope is not within ourselves or our deeds?

READ 1 Peter 3:18-21

There Peter speaks about the deluge of the worldwide flood at the time of Noah and his family. God kept Noah and his family safe in such torrential waters. Peter compares God's safekeeping in the flood to the waters of baptism, which save us through the resurrection of Christ.

SHARE: apply to your life.

How can the water of Holy Baptism bring comfort when we are despairing in our shortcomings? (If you are not baptized, please consider having a discussion with our Campus Ministry team and we can teach you more about baptism and receiving God's promises through baptism as soon as possible.)

PRAYER:

Dear Lord Jesus, we confess that we often highlight our accomplishments and downplay our faults. Please forgive us for putting our hope in ourselves. Lead us always to recognize and cling to your saving work for us. In your name, we pray Amen.

NOTES: _____



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