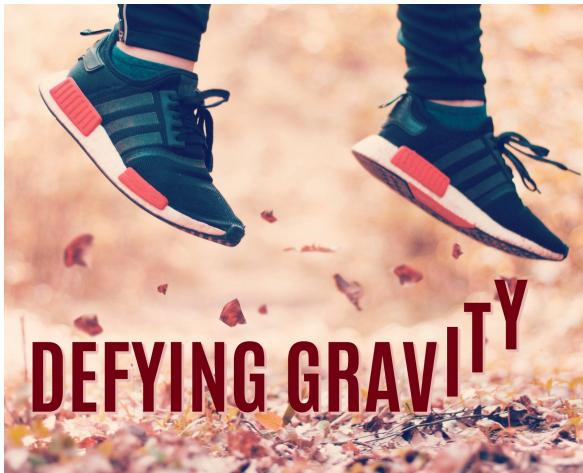


## DEFYING GRAVITY: DISCOVERING GRAVITY

September 9, 2018

*Michael Swartzentruber, Senior Minister*



### Matthew 19:16-26

16 Then someone came to Jesus and said, ‘Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?’ <sup>17</sup> And he said to him, ‘Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.’ <sup>18</sup> He said to him, ‘Which ones?’ And Jesus said, ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; <sup>19</sup> Honour your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

<sup>20</sup> The young man said to him, ‘I have kept all these; what do I still lack?’

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to him, ‘If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’

<sup>22</sup> When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>24</sup> Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’ <sup>25</sup> When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, ‘Then who can be saved?’ <sup>26</sup> But Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.’

### REFLECT & DISCUSS

#### Context

There are those who came to Jesus with trick questions and phony sincerity. The young man in this story was not such a person. He came before Jesus with honesty and earnestness. He comes seeking. Even so, he cannot follow through on the guidance and invitation Jesus provides to sell his possession, give the money to the poor, and follow.

Jesus had a lot to say about money and wealth in the gospels. Indeed, this topic is one Jesus engaged in his teaching more than any other. Yet it remains a stubbornly taboo topic to touch today (even at church).

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## Big Ideas

1. Like the earth's gravity, *financial gravity* is an **inevitable** and **invisible** force that is at work on us.
2. Jesus does **not** demand **everyone sell everything**, but he does challenge each of us to **transform our relationship** to money and possessions.
3. It is **hard, but not impossible**, for the rich to enter the kingdom of God.

## Reflect

1. Read the scripture passage carefully and slowly. What word or image stands out to you? Why?
2. Why do you think the topic of money is taboo or charged with shame and negative energy in our society?
3. Does it surprise you that Jesus talked about money as much as he did? Why or why not?
4. Recall and reflect on a challenging or life-changing financial conversation in your life--perhaps with a mentor, colleague, child, parent, or pastor.
5. How do you, as someone living in a marketing-intense and wealthy country, experience financial gravity in your life?
6. What are some ways you might break free from the culture of "more" in your life?

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### Clean Out Challenge

Open that junk drawer, closet, storage unit, garage, or basement. Finally do something about those items piling up.

See the list of items you can donate to:

[Habitat Restore](#)

[Kentucky Refugee Ministry](#)

### Fill out an Estimate of Giving card

Email your weekly, monthly or annual estimate for 2019 to

Treasurer, Davis Marksbury

(LeeMarksbury@gmail.com)

### Spending On Purpose

October 14 or 21

Learn more about building a spending plan, creating financial habits, and tools for freedom, purpose, and accountability.

Contact Gary Murphy if you are interested to know more or sign up for the class.

(gmurphy@financialengines.com)

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## Listen Online

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