

The Rich Man Matthew 19: 16-26

It's hard sometimes to do the right thing. It can even make us sad at times. In today's Bible story from Matthew Chapter 19, we will meet a rich man who wants to enter the Kingdom of God, but he is sad because to do it, he must give up a lot of things.

I am going to need your help to tell the story. During the story, I will give you either a thumbs up or thumbs down. When I make the sign for thumbs up, you will say "Lean and Dab!" as you dab.

(Kids will know what this means. Here is a picture of someone "dabbing" for your reference.)



When I make the sign for thumbs down, you say "Wa-Wa!" and do "the drop."
(Again, kids will know the dance move, "the drop." Here is a picture of the drop.)



Let's try it!

Thumbs up! Lean and Dab! (And do a “dab.”)
Thumbs down! Wa-Wa! (And do “the drop.”)

Great job! I think you are ready for the story.

As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to Him with this question: “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?”

“Why ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good.” Of course he was talking about His Father, God! (Thumbs up! - **Lean and Dab!**)

Jesus continued, “But to answer your question- if you want to receive eternal life, keep the commandments.” (Thumbs up! - **Lean and Dab!**)

“Which ones?” the man asked.

And Jesus replied, “You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as yourself.

“I’ve obeyed all these commandments,” the young man replied. (Thumbs up! - **Lean and Dab!**)

Then the man asked, “What else must I do?”

Jesus told him, “If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

(Thumbs up! - **Lean and Dab!**)

But when the young man heard this, he went away sad for he had many possessions. (Thumbs down! - **Wa-Wa!**)

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

(Thumbs down! - **Wa-Wa!**)

I’ll say it again... it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God! (Thumbs down! - **Wa-Wa!**)

The disciples were astounded. “Then who in this world can be saved?” they asked.

Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. (Thumbs down! - **Wa-Wa!**)

But with God everything is possible. (Thumbs Up! - **Lean and Dab!**)

When the man in the story thought he could have all his stuff AND follow Jesus, he wanted to follow Jesus! But when he had to choose only one. He chose his stuff—he chose what he loved most. The important thing to remember is that Jesus isn't saying none of us can have any stuff! He's saying that following God needs to be more important than anything else in our lives. Because following God was more important than anything else to Jesus!

Following isn't easy, but it'll be worth it. A little later, after the rich man went away, another person asked Jesus, "What's the most important command God gives us?"

Jesus told him the same thing he told the rich man: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment."

If we are loving God with all of our heart, soul, and mind, then we are giving him our full attention, which is what Jesus did. And following him should be more important than anything else in our lives. The thing is, this will look different for each of us. God isn't telling all of us to sell everything we own. He's telling us to love him the MOST.