

MOTIVES OF THE HEART

Sabbath School Bible Studies

Five Questions for Life Change

Study Text: Psalms 33:6-9 & Matthew 19:16-22

God or Mammon

Open

1. There are essentially two global economic models; Free Market economics, or, the state run/planned economy. The merits and curses of both are debated endlessly. Can you see ideals from both, that align with the teachings of Christ?

Dig

2. Read Psalms 33:6-9 in as many versions of the bible as possible. "For he spoke, and it came to be", says Psalms 33:9. How do the different versions express that phrase differently? Do they help understand further, how God's creative power, is the result of his spoken word?
3. *"If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."* (Matthew 19:21 ESV) *Unpack* those words of Jesus. What do you think they meant to the young man? How should we apply them today?
4. Jesus makes it clear to his shocked disciples that only with difficulty will a rich person be able to enter the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 19:23-29). But he then goes on to say that it can be done. How? What are the difficulties? Worth remembering: If you live in Western Society, you are 'rich' by global standards.

Reflect

5. William Barclay, sums up the story of the Rich Young Man:
"If a man looks on his possessions as given to him for nothing but his own comfort and convenience, they are a chain which must be broken; if he looks on his possessions as a means to helping others, they are his crown."
What of your possessions are you using for the purposes of God?
What possessions do you own that have become a burden?