

Questions for reflection.

(not intended to be a sermon outline)

You are encouraged to use these as part of a study/devotional/reflection time through the coming week.

You are also encouraged to participate in the Explore Class after worship where we will use these as a discussion starter. Bring your questions as well for discussion.

1. In the culture of Mark 9, the rich young man would have been seen as being blessed by God with his riches. What would we hold up today as someone having the blessing of God?
2. Where do we see *Agape*, or "other centered" love, in our culture today? Where do we see *Eros* and *Phileo* type love being held up as the highest form?
3. How would you describe what Mark was pointing to in v21, "Jesus looked at him and loved him"?
4. What other things, besides money, we may feel is too high a cost to follow Jesus? What do we struggle with giving up or giving over?

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5. *As you reflect on this passage, what do you sense is your area of struggle in giving over to Jesus? What is your "first love?" What you depend on more than his promises?*

6. *It sounds simple to say we should "Love God and Love our Neighbor," but that gets complicated in living it out! Why?*

7. *When you look at a person, especially one who might not be so nice, do you see them with "love" as Jesus did? What would that look like if you did? How would it change the situation and your interactions with them?*

8. *Mark records this passage right after talking about Jesus and the little children and their childlike faith. Is that intentional? Connected?*

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