

# THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH

**About the Series:** In a confusing world, finding and discerning truth is of vital importance, especially to followers of Jesus who are to share the truth of Christ to others. We are to always speak the truth and share truthful things, so that our trustworthiness will not be compromised.

## PART 4

### ACCEPTANCE & REJECTION: The Application of Truth

Matthew 19:16-22 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

#### Discussion Questions

1. What makes people easily believe false reports or conclusions?
2. Finding and discerning the truth is only part of the search for truth. We also need to believe and to properly apply truth. Read Matthew 19:16-22. What did the young man ask Jesus? What was the implication of his question?
3. Jesus' distinct answer to the young man's question teaches us these principles on the application of truth:

**Clearly define terms and concepts in order to apply truth correctly (v. 17a).** Why did Jesus say to the young man that no one is good but God? What is the reason why no one is able to gain entry into heaven on his own? Why is it so important to have a clear understanding of the truth about who Jesus Christ is? In your personal or family life, what do you do so that you can apply what is true to you correctly?

**Truth wrongly applied, no matter how sincere, is truth unapplied (v. 17b-20).** Why did Jesus mention the commandments when He knew very well that no one can be saved by following the law (Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9)? Share examples of situations when people are very sincere but wrongly apply truth. As a Christian, why do you have to do good works if these works will not save you?

**The application of truth may require hard and difficult sacrifices (v. 21).** What did Jesus tell the man to do if he wanted to achieve the perfection of goodness in order for him to have entry into heaven? Why would Jesus ask him to do that? How did the man react to Jesus' demand? Why do you think that there are more poor people than rich people who are interested in knowing God? How does convenience keep you from doing what God wants? If, as a Christian, you believe that God will reward His children in heaven, how come there are many Christians who are hesitant to make sacrifices for God?

**Truth unapplied does not cease to be truth (v. 22).** What saddens you about the man's reaction to Jesus' "demand" in Matthew 16:26? Do you think it's unfair for the many moral and good people in this world to be heading to hell because they do not believe in the truth that in order to be saved, they need to believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior?

#### Reflect & Respond

There are only two choices to make—to accept or to reject the truth of the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Have you prayed to accept Jesus Christ in your life as your personal Savior? If not, would you like to do it right now? If you have already done it, are you living out the truths of the Word of God to live a life of abundance and blessings?

#### Prayer

Heavenly Father, it is sobering to realize that I may accept the truth about You and Your Word yet fail to apply them in my life. Please help me to be willing to make sacrifices for You, if I have to, in doing what You expect from me. Thank You that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ had come so that I may have abundant life. Thank You that anything precious I have now is nothing compared to having eternal life I have with You. In Jesus' precious name I pray. Amen.