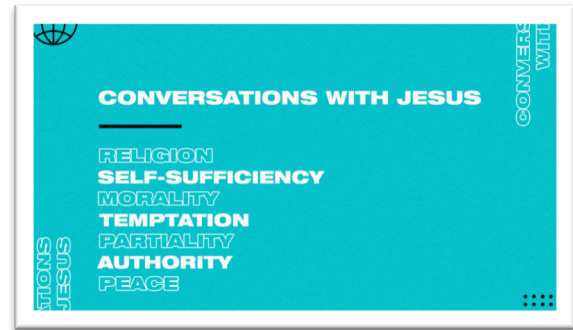


A CONVERSATION ABOUT SELF-SUFFICIENCY

MATTHEW 19:16-26 // JORDAN COROS
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It's a real problem when I think that I'm in control. It puts me in God's rightful place (v. 16-17). It makes me think I'm better than I actually am (v. 18-20), which causes unnecessary pain and difficulty (v. 21-24). The solution? I choose to depend entirely on the self-sufficient one (v. 25-26)

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

If there was a song called "I did it my way" written about your 'loveable-yet-stubborn' side, what would your family and friends expect it to be about? (C'mon, tell the truth!)

*- For what is a man, what has he got
If not himself, then he has naught
Not to say the things that he truly feels
And not the words of someone who kneels
The record shows I took all the blows
And did it my way -*

"I Did it My Way."

Though this song is considered a signature piece for Sinatra, he came to loathe it because of the self-serving and self-indulgent nature of the words. However, when Paul Anka wrote the lyrics, he imagined what Sinatra might say if it was his song; Sinatra's lifestyle inspired the lyrics. [Listen to the song or look up this song lyrics and read them over.](#)

Why do you think people long for control over their lives and how they'll be judged morally?

The wealthy young man wanted to control his spiritual destiny. He attempted to qualify himself for entry into God's kingdom. He managed his wealth carefully, and diligently observed the ten

commandments. His opening question, "*What good thing must I do to inherit eternal life?*" shows he was looking to further pad his spiritual resumé. He wanted to add another accomplishment and strengthen his case with God.

Why are people quick to fall into this kind of arrangement with God, as though impressing him can earn salvation?

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

Do you ever think you may be relying on a few religious rituals instead of more desperately clinging to Christ? Routine prayers, singing, serving, and bible study can leave us feeling disconnected to Christ if we don't understand the vine/branch illustration of John 15:5.

Is there a connection to Christ in your spiritual disciplines? How does his life flow into and through you to others after you connect with him intentionally?

"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." When the young man heard this, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

If the man had listened to Jesus and sold all he had, he would have been forced to rely on Jesus and others who followed him. He would have put himself into a desperate place before the Lord. **What should a healthy inter-dependency look like in your relationship with Jesus and the church?**

What has Jesus asked you for that you are still holding on to?

What are the pros and cons that you could experience if you let it go and trusted Christ instead?