

- *Hey*
  - *There was a TV show that I used to love called Castle. In it, one of the main protagonists is a man who is wealthy now who was not always. And one of the episodes mentions this.*
    - *He says, wealth just brings out more of who you are inside.*
    - *And in that way, this is a question for all of us.*
- *You*
  - *If you were a wealthy individual (assuming you're not already), what kind of a wealthy individual would you be?*
  - *Wealth is something that amplifies your own ability to make your preferences come true.*
- *Look*
  - *What was inside this rich young man?*
    - *We know some things about him, and we're given a glimpse into his thoughts and feelings.*
    - *He has kept the Torah all his life.*
      - *When Jesus quoted from it, the man didn't flinch.*
    - *He has probably sought out other teachers, perhaps many teachers. The man came running up to Jesus and knelt before him, immediately taking the position of a student.*
    - *He is trying to do the right thing.*
      - *He had been accumulating wealth in heaven by means of following the Torah. He had wealth of his own.*
    - *But then Jesus charges him with the last thing, sell what you own and give it to the poor.*
  - *You cannot serve both God and wealth. It was a choice between serving God and serving wealth.*
    - *Quick disclaimer - you can have wealth and still be serving God. But it is hard. As Jesus said.*
    - *But what does that do to people, typically? Who have wealth? What is the trap that is so difficult to avoid when you have wealth?*
      - *Do you lead or do you follow?*
      - *Do you serve God or do you serve your wealth?*
- *Do*
  - *You know how difficult it is to begin to accept help from others. So many would rather do it themselves. And following this line of thought, when we have means, we can fool ourselves into thinking that we can do it better than God.*
  - *But Jesus' mission was about putting God first. And after that, there is no first or last.*
  - *It is a difficult thing for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God, but it is not impossible with God. In that way, we all have that issue.*