**OUR ATTACHMENT TO MONEY IS OUR “TEST” OF OUR DESIRE FOR CHRIST**

**Luke 18:18-23**

“Jesus said, “Why are you calling me good? No one is good—only God. You know the commandments, don’t you? No illicit sex, no killing, no stealing, no lying, honor your father and mother.” One day one of the local officials asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to deserve eternal life?”

He said, “I’ve kept them all for as long as I can remember.” When Jesus heard that, he said, “Then there’s only one thing left to do: Sell everything you own and give it away to the poor. You will have riches in heaven. Then come, follow me.” This was the last thing the official expected to hear. He was very rich and became terribly sad. He was holding on tight to a lot of things and not about to let them go.”

We are told that money is a test. As in the case of the Rich Young Ruler we also are tested by having to choose between following Jesus and following money and wealth. We will likely not be told to give it all up as he was. I actually imagine once he said yes to Jesus about giving it up he would have been told, no you don’t have to give it all away, I was just testing you. In any case, he chose wealth over Jesus.

Not only are we tested on Sundays regarding our giving through our tithes but also through how we use the remainder of what God has given. We are responsible for the whole 100% not just what we give here today. We are to be good stewards or managers of what God has entrusted to us, whether that’s considered large or small or anywhere in between.

The Rich Young Ruler desired to be with Jesus, but his desire to hang on to his wealth was stronger. When tested by Jesus...he failed with disastrous consequences.

What is the result when we face this test. Are we found faithful or do we walk away with a deep sadness knowing we have put more importance in keeping what we have and not living with a generous heart. By not being obedient to what the Lord has placed on our hearts.

I pray that as we bring our tithes to the Lord it will be with a grateful and generous heart which trusts God for what is to come and not put our faith in money and things.

Shall we pray.