

# Christian values

## WORD OF THE WEEK The Rich Young Man



As Jesus was walking down a road, a man ran up to him. He knelt down, and asked, “Good teacher, what can I do to have eternal life?”

Jesus replied, “Why do you call me good? Only God is good. You know the commandments. ‘Do not murder. Be faithful in marriage. Do not steal. Do not tell lies about others. Do not cheat. Respect your father and mother.’”

The man answered, “Teacher, I have obeyed all these commandments since I was a young man.”

Jesus looked closely at the man. He liked him and said, “There’s one thing you still need to do.

**Go sell everything you own. Give the money to the poor,** and you will have riches in heaven. Then come with me.”

When the man heard Jesus say this, **he went away gloomy and sad because he was very rich.**

### Something to think about...

#### ‘The Bank Statement Prayer’

Why do I do that? Why do I feel the need to pay when I can’t afford it?

Then, down the list, there are the payments on the new car, bought three years ago.

Most of the friends bought second-hand; not me, I’m still paying.

What am I doing, Lord? Showing off? Buying friends?

I don’t know.

All the shops I use are listed there too, the same weekend pattern of trailing around clothes shops searching for the right look.

Is that the way I really want to spend my weekend? It looks a bit sad as I see each weekend fit the same pattern.

Lord, perhaps if I spent my time differently. I might spend my money differently too.

If I got into sport, or got out-of-town at the weekend, did a job or two for others, then maybe I would be building up what you called the treasure in heaven, rather than being sucked into this spending madness we call living.

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

*Year 10 go to Castlerigg on retreat this week. We hope they have a great time.*

*Breakfast with God in the Junior Dining Room at 8:35am. Come along for tea, toast and prayer!*

### Something to talk about...

- What would you say to Jesus if he told you to sell all you own and give the money to the poor?
- What do you think the rich young man decided to do?
- What do you think is your most valuable possession?
- What gives something value? Money? Memories?
- How valuable do you think you are?



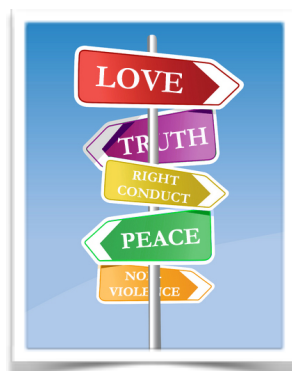
### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord, help us to realise where our values should lie. May we not be desperate to accumulate more and more possessions. Instead, help us to be desperate for a fairer world where everyone has dignity and equality.

Help us to use money and not be used by it. Show us that people come first.

Show us that slowly building a world of love leads to a richness that no bank account can contain.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen



### Something to do...

What are the things your form class values the most? Share your ideas. Perhaps create a collage of pictures to show what things are precious to you all? How many are material things? How many are deeper, spiritual things that money can't buy?

**When the rich young man went away sad, it proved that Jesus' suspicion about him was correct.**



Something to consider is that Jesus was testing the commitment of the rich young man by asking something of him that he knew would be difficult to give. A lesson for all of us is that we must not place anything above the love of God and following his will.