

The story I'm telling myself
I got this

Bikers might make that list.



Rappers?



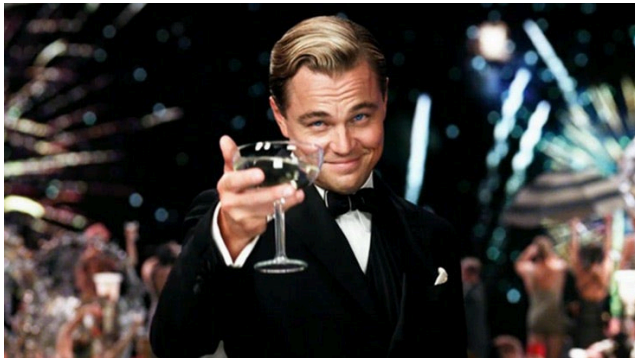
Terrorists?



Raider fans



Rich people



Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." Matthew 19:23,24

“Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?” Matthew 19:16

Characteristics of the rich young ruler

He is called a “ruler.” The Greek word refers to a “leader,” an “official” with administrative authority.

He was young (neaniskos) a term used for someone from their early twenties until about age forty.

And he was not only rich, he was extremely (sphodra) rich (Luke 18:23).

“Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.” “Which ones?” he inquired. Jesus replied, “You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself.” “All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?” Matthew 19:17-20

What Jesus is saying in this moment is that this rich young ruler will not find peace and purpose until he puts Jesus above his money.

“For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:20

“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Matthew 5:48

“Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow

me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. Matthew 19:21,22

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Luke 6:38

God delights in us when we are generous and freely share

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

The reason Jesus asked this rich young ruler to give up his money is because he knew that as long as he lived, he would try to find his security in his money, and he would never be satisfied.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:21-26

Last thought: Take a generosity risk this week