

WEEK 4

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

“I can do it myself!”

If you’ve ever argued with a 3-year-old, chances are that you’ve heard those words before. From the moment we can speak, we want the world to know we’re capable. We can tackle any problem, face any obstacle, and do it on our own. We want to be self-sufficient. We want to make our own way in this world. It’s one of the core values of American culture. We don’t want to ask for help. We don’t need anyone to come and save us. We want to feel like we can do it for ourselves.

When the “Rich Young Ruler” approached Jesus in Luke 18, he wanted that same assurance. “Good Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?” He assumed that he could make it his own way. He didn’t need any help. He could pull himself up into the Kingdom. Jesus saw through his self-assured facade. Recognizing the man’s wealth, Jesus told the man to do the one thing He knew he couldn’t do: **“Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me” (Luke 18:22 NLT)**. The young man was willing to do anything it took, except for the one thing Jesus asked.

Jesus’ request wasn’t about the cash; it was about control. For the Rich Young Ruler, his wealth kept his hands firmly on the steering wheel of his life. He controlled his future. He controlled his destiny. What he didn’t realize was that the more you carry on your own, the harder it is to move. We can’t trust in Jesus and trust in ourselves at the same time—it doesn’t work like that. You can’t earn your way into the Kingdom; you can only receive it as a gift. The life Jesus offers begins not with achievement, but with surrender. At Southeast, MOVE reminds us that surrender looks like worshiping God above everything else, serving instead of striving, and giving with open hands. The more we let go, the more we let Him move us to where He wants us to be.

PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Read Luke 18:18-30. How did the Rich Young Ruler respond to Jesus’ words? Why did this surprise Jesus’ disciples?

Why is it so hard for the self-reliant to enter the Kingdom? How does grace require us to rely on Jesus over ourselves?

What are some areas in your spiritual life where you are tempted to be self-sufficient? Where do you think this desire to be self-reliant comes from? How do you think Jesus could confront your sources of confidence?

How was the Rich Young Ruler seeking validation over transformation? How are you guilty of the same thing?

What would it look like for you to move with Jesus today? Is there a step of confidence in Christ you’ve been hesitating to take?

Read This Week’s Text
LUKE 18:18-30

Check Out This
Week’s Video



