

LESSON 12 February 16, 2025

Connect timeless truths with today's news.

TREASURED AWARD

On February 2, Beyoncé received the Album of the Year Grammy for her first-ever country album, "Cowboy Carter." Despite the album's win being determined by the 13,000 voting members of The Recording Academy, this year's Grammys have received online backlash. After Beyoncé's win was announced, cameras panned to Album of the Year nominee Billie Eilish, who could be seen with tears in her eyes. Many online believe that Eilish was snubbed by the Academy and deserved the win instead.

TREASURES IN HEAVEN

In today's reading, a rich young man asks Jesus what good thing he could do to gain eternal life. Jesus points him back to God, who is the source of all that is good. But the man is unsatisfied and asks Jesus to name some commands, so Jesus lists the commands of Exodus 20—specifically those that deal with how we should behave toward other people. The rich young man claims that he has kept the commandments and presses Jesus further. Jesus tells the man to sell all he has and to give the money to the poor and follow Jesus. The man departs, mourning. Jesus turns to the disciples and teaches that it is difficult for the rich to enter God's kingdom, yet with God all things are possible.

- 1. What is the worth of awards, such as the Grammys?
- 2. Have you ever seen an award go to someone who may not have deserved it as much as someone else? How did you respond?
- 3. How do heavenly treasures compare to earthly treasures that signify excellence?

Additional Resources

Any videos or web materials are for your personal use. If you play any media files in class, be sure to have the necessary rights to do so.

Contemporary Worship Weekly
Echoes Worship Weekly
Traditional Worship Weekly

Theology of Work Project on "The Rich Young Man (Matthew 19:16–30)"

Allen Ross's "Wealth and the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 19:16–30)"

Shane Morris's "Why Moses Chose Exile"