

## **MARK 10:17-22 THE RICH YOUNG RULER**

### **INTRO:**

- Still east of Jordan and having left the house. Journeying toward Jerusalem.
- Jesus had just given a lesson on the beautifulness of simplicity of faith and trust as exhibited in children.
- Their wonderful ability to believe and accept willingly without works.

**VS. 17:** *Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"*

- Here coming on the scene is a man anxiously seeking Jesus to ask of him how to earn eternal life. (become a child, vs. 15)
- We learn by comparing Matt. & Luke, he was a rich young ruler.
- The word for ruler here is most often used as someone in authority or leader status within the synagogue or an office among the Pharisees or Sadducees.
- We notice several commendable things about this man.
  - 1) He is anxious about his future life.
  - 2) He came determinedly for he came running.
  - 3) He came respectfully for he addressed Jesus as "good Teacher."
  - 4) He was brave, he was not afraid to come to Christ in broad day light in front of others.
  - 5) He did not come in stealth, or at night.
  - 6) He came reverently and humbly publicly, for he knelt before Jesus.
  - 7) He was focused and intentional for he specifically asks what must I do to inherit eternal life.
  - 8) He hungers for eternal life.
  - 9) He is aware he does not have it.
    - 10) For this he sought the Lord.
    - 11) He was not like so many others seeking physical healing of body, blindness, deafness, unable to speak, lame or blind. He was not demon possessed, he was after something of eternal value, eternal life.
- We also notice several things that are not commendable.
  - 1) He assumed he could somehow earn eternal life.
  - 2) He assumed he was worthy in his efforts and achievements.
  - 3) He assumed he was righteous?
  - 4) He did not realize the cost, what he asked was much more difficult for it would take the sacrifice of the Son of God on the cross. The physical things he did not ask for would have only taken a word from the lips of Jesus, eternal life would take His very life.
- He would soon find out that what he desired would cost him everything.
- What he needed was another's righteousness.
- Could he, would he sing "I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold?"

- He came seeking eternal life:
- Eternal life is a quality of life, not a duration of life, though it is eternal. It is possessing the very life of God which He graciously grants to believers.
- He came seeking not Jesus but the benefit of Jesus, eternal life.

***VS. 18: So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.***

- Jesus asking "why do you call me good; none are good but God"
- He is not just being nit-picky; He is establishing something of importance and this something will have great meaning later in the conversation.
- Jesus is also forcing the man to consider the use of the word "good," and to bring the man to the revelation of who he is talking to.
- He is really asking, do you acknowledge me as God, are you willing to receive the revelation that I am God, and thus good?
- If the man reasoned that Jesus was not God, then He was not good.
- If the man truly meant Jesus was good, then He is God.
- What do we mean when we say of someone, they are good?
- typically, it is a word of comparison. We base our value of "good" on other things, or other people and compare them. One is better than the other.
- But none are good but God. He is alone in goodness. (Rom.3:10-12)
- Think of the person who you esteem the best, who are good, they are not, only God is truly good.
- Real goodness is defined by the character of God, He is beneficent, He is kind, He is love, He is Holy.

***VS 19: You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'***

- Jesus here brings before the rich young ruler the last 6 commandments, those dealing with your relationship with your fellow man.

***VS 20: <sup>20</sup> And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth."***

- *I am not so sure that the man's response was honest. Had he never misled someone, held back tax from the Romans, coveted someone else's goods, were all his business dealings pure?*
- This response by the man may show a layer of conceit and pride and for sure ignorance of his own heart.
- Jesus does not challenge the man with the first 4 commandments, which have to do with man's relationship and responsibility to God.
- We will see that this man failed in applying them to his life, particularly the first and second. **EX. 20.**
- This man was ignorant of both the law and his own heart. He felt he could answer "he was perfect in keeping the law.
- Pleasing God is more than doing, first it is being. Loving and obeying from the heart.

- He was still, after keeping all these commandments still empty, he was still void of the peace and contentment of God for in Matthew records a very telling thing in vs. 20, the man said, "what yet do I lack." He was still empty.

***VS 21: Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."***

- ***Only Mark records that Jesus beholding him, love him.***
- ***One thing you lack. That one thing was an abandonment to God, a total surrender. which included his love and misplaced security he had placed on riches.***
- ***Treasures in heaven: Giving as God desires, giving in generosity and freely, cheerfully can be laying up treasures in heaven.***
  - ***Acts 10:1-4***
  - ***Matt. 6:19-21 Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth...***
- ***This man sought for something he could do to gain eternal life. Just one more work.***
- ***The problem was God does not want our labors, our sacrifices, even the riches he has given us He first wants our hearts, our love.***
  - ***Prov. 23:26, My son, give me your heart!***
- ***If this man would have sold all and given his riches to the poor would not win his salvation unless it was a sign of a greater inner work of surrender.***
- ***This man could have done all these things, kept all law and still be unsurrendered to the Lord, he could still be on the throne of his life.***
  - ***See Paul in Phil. 3:5-6***
- ***Jesus loved this man and was trying to get the man to see that his trust was in his riches instead of his God.***
- ***He needed to move his heart from earthly wealth to eternal wealth. He needed to move from coveting earthly riches to being filled with holy trust, reliance, and love for God.***
- ***It is one thing to be saying how much I love Jesus, or how God is my first love and priority, that earthly treasures or earthly relationship come second in my life,***
- ***But if or when God really asks me to forsake and removes them from me can I still bless him and worship Him?***
- ***Can I live before God with everything I own, everything I have with a open hand lifted up toward God? Is my heart free from the entangles of this world? In our poverty we find the riches of Christ.***
- ***This is taking up or cross and following the Lord of Calvary.***
- ***Now notice Jesus did not offer the man a short cut, or an easy non costly way, "just ask me into your heart."***
- ***Jesus did not take the man away privately and have the disciples begin to play some soft nice music on their harps. (sorry)***
- ***Jesus did not make it easy for him, He exposed the need of the man's heart because He love him enough to give him the truth.***
- ***Imagine this type of scene happening in our churches today. Someone excitedly and honestly asking "what must I do to be saved, to become a Christian." What would we tell them?***

- Jesus asking total devotion and surrender to Him, if He were not God, Jesus would be breaking the first two commandments.
- Also, the man came and bowed himself down to Jesus which if Jesus were not God, this would also be breaking the second commandment, but Jesus allowed it, thus acknowledging He is God.

**VS 22; *But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions***

- This poor man could not forsake his love for wealth, his pride of life.
- 1 Tim. 6:10; For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of evil*, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
  - All his wealth came from God. See **Deut. 8:11-20**, 6:10-15
- His riches did not bring him enough joy or contentment for he went away sorrowful.
- This man seems to agree, to feel, the challenge of Christ was just and right on the mark.
- His heart told him so, it witnessed to him it was so. for he went away sorrowful, grieved.
- The arrow had his its mark. (Rom 7:9) I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died..
- Typically, when we feel a demand is unfair, we resent it, argue and complain about it and are disgruntled, but when we feel it is just, though unwelcome, we fall silent before God.
- He went away sorrowful: downcast, appalled, shocked, devastated.

**CONCLUSION:**

- God deals with each of us in His way, He knows what is best.
- He does not deal with us all the same.
- He it is who decides what we have weather plenty or little, weather we are to give all away or are permitted to keep some, He is the Master and all is to be surrendered to Him.
- **DO NOT BE AFRAID OF GOD'S ALTAR.** He gives back our Isaacs with added blessings when we lay them on it.

**I'D RATHER HAVE JESUS.....**