

The Rich Young Ruler 19:16-30

Sermon 55 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 19:16-30

Intro: This same account is found in Mark 10:17-27 and Luke 18:16-27.

I. His Sincere Question – v.16

“Do” is a verb – in the future aorist indicative
What good deed must **I do** that I haven’t done yet?
He is a religious man talking about “works”.
So, Christ takes him to the covenant of works.

II. The Answer from Jesus 17-22

A. A Searching Question -- Why do you call me Good?

There are at least four common explanations

1. To show the man that Jesus is divine.
2. Jesus is taking “good” as flattery and rebuking it.
3. Jesus is admitting to being a sinner (obviously wrong)
4. Jesus is saying nothing about himself – but pointing the man to God.

From a TableTalk article – “The use of “do” indicates that he thought he could enter God’s kingdom by doing good. However, Jesus does not directly castigate him for this belief. Rather, the Messiah responds by asking the man why he was calling Jesus “good,” for no one is good but God alone. Jesus is not denying His own goodness; He is indirectly forcing the man to question his assumption that he knows goodness (and therefore, the Lord). In effect Jesus is saying “no one is good but God, and therefore you cannot rely on your moral behavior to inherit the life of the age to come. Like anyone else, you must follow me.”

B. The Impossible Path to Life v. 17

C. Which Commandments? 18-19

This is from the moral law, the 10 commandments.

Not an exhaustive list, commandments 5-9 and their summation from Deut. 19:18.

D. I Have Kept the Commandments v. 20

E. The Heart of the Matter v. 21-22

- Jesus knew this man was moral, sincere, and troubled.
- Jesus also knew this man was trusting in his own works to be saved, and by the works of the law no one can be saved.

Hendricksen quotes Paul who in his lost condition worked hard and thought his righteousness was enough to win favor with God much like this man.

Galatians 2:19-21 – “**For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.**

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness *comes* through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

With this rich young man – Christ hits the mark – covetousness!

This man was breaking the 10th commandment – often a secret sin. And not just the 10th commandment – but the entirety of the first 4 commandments which tell us we must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and all your strength -- from Deut. 6:5.

This was something that many in Jesus’ day – and probably this young man understood – as they carefully studied their Old Testament.

III. The Danger of Prosperity 19:23-26

Contrast v. 23 – contrast with **v. 28**

Riches can be a snare – a real danger in our prosperous country.

IV. The Illustration of Impossibility 19:23-26

A theological truth is being given here in Matthew, Mark and Luke. Christ is purposely using one of the largest animals in Palestine against something that is incredibly small.

V. We Have Left all to Follow You 19:27-30

Peter asks about a “reward”.
And there is a reward coming.

There is a reward in the “regeneration” which means the new world or as the Bible often speaks -- the new heavens and the new earth.