

What Good Thing Shall I Do? Resurrection Sunday April 8, 2012

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Luke 18:31-33

- 31 Then he took *unto him* the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished.
- 32 For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on:
- 33 And they shall scourge *him*, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.

Today, we are going to look at one of the last events to take place before Jesus indeed did go up to Jerusalem and there was tortured and crucified and resurrected for our sins.

Our story takes place as Jesus was out among the crowds with great multitudes following Him.

Matthew 19:2 And great multitudes followed him; and he healed them there.

The Pharisees were there, of course, trying unsuccessfully to catch Jesus in some mistake.

At a particular time during these events, the scriptures say that:

Matthew 19:13-15

- 13 Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put *his* hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them.
- 14 But Jesus said, **Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.**
- 15 And he laid *his* hands on them, and departed thence.

It was at this time during an atmosphere of miracles and kindness and the demonstration of the power of God that a young man of high social standing, who had no doubt been observing all of this, came and kneeled before Jesus:

Mark 10:17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

In **Luke 18:18** it says: And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

Since Matthew's account has slightly more detail of this encounter we will use it as our text.

Matthew 19:16-26

- 16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

- 17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is none good but one, that is, God:* but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.
- 18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,
- 19 Honor thy father and *thy* mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.
- 20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?
- 21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go *and* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *and* follow me.
- 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.
- 23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.
- 24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.
- 25 When his disciples heard *it*, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?
- 26 But Jesus beheld *them*, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Here we have one of the saddest situations one could ever imagine; a young man; a nice young man; a nice young man with his whole life before him comes to Jesus and for whatever reason, goes away lost. In all probability this young man is suffering in hell today with no hope of reprieve because of what went wrong on this day of which we read.

Some would say that this is Jesus fault; that the Lord asked too much of this young man.

Some would say that it is the young man's fault because he wasn't willing to do enough.

Although this is a very short account of this event; there is much that can be observed about it:

I. First, observe the young man himself:

A. There are many who would desire to be like this young man:

1. He was young; we all know who might wish they were that!
2. He was rich; it doesn't say how rich; but "great possessions" sounds to me like a lot.
3. Who among us would not enjoy having material wealth? I am reasonably sure of this

because when we do happen to get some; we really seem to enjoy it; or is that just me?

4. He was a ruler; he was the boss. This means that gave the orders and others followed them.

5. Most people like the idea of being in charge; at least the bossing part, if not the responsibility and the accountability that goes with it.

6. And by most standards, he seems to be a pretty nice fellow:

- a. He had not murdered anyone.
- b. He apparently was not an adulterer.
- c. He did not steal; he obviously had plenty without stealing.
- d. He said he wasn't a liar; we did not know otherwise until he answered Jesus in verse 20.
- e. And he loved everybody else just as much as he did himself.

7. Hey, be nice; he got a possible three out of five; how did you do?

B. OK, so he thinks he is better than he really is.

1. Do you suppose there is anyone here today who thinks they are better than they really are?

2. How about you, do you think you are a pretty good person?

C. If this young man is in hell because he thought he was good enough on his own, could this be in any way Jesus' fault?

1. Did not Jesus tell him the truth about this?

2. Oh, yes He did: **Matthew 19:17** And he said unto him, **Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God:...**

3. Jesus did not quote all Ten Commandments; he just went as far as it took to point out the obvious; obvious to everyone, that is, but this “not as bright as he thinks he is” young man.

4. Just in case you are not getting this, let me read to you your own spiritual resume which is exactly the same as that of this young man:
While you read this on the screen, let me read it to you in the first person: (skip to 5.)

5. Romans 3:10-18

10 As it is written, You are not righteous:

11 You do not understand, you do not seek after God.

12 You are gone out of the way, you have become unprofitable; you do not good.

13 your throat *is* an open sepulcher; with your tongue you have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under your lips:

14 Your mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness:

- 15 Your feet *are* swift to shed blood:
- 16 Destruction and misery *are* in your ways:
- 17 And the way of peace have you not known:
- 18 There is no fear of God before your eyes.

II. Next let us observe where this young man went wrong:

A. *He was wrong about himself.*

1. He was so much into doing good things; he had come to believe that he was good; even though Jesus told him the straight truth.
2. Do you see yourself as an unworthy sinner or do you still think you are pretty good?
3. **Ecclesiastes 7:20** For *there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.*
4. The conclusion is simple:
Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
5. His peers were the Pharisees; self-righteous pretenders. It looks like their hypocrisy has rubbed off.

B. *He was also wrong about God's plan.*

1. God never intended the commandments to be the means of salvation.
2. **Acts 13:38-39**

38 Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

3. Romans 3:19-20

19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

4. Yes, it is true that if you have never broken a commandment or failed in doing everything you should do, you would in theory go to heaven. It is strictly in theory because there is only one who is good; and He is God! Are there any perfect people in here? Amazing, God is right again!

5. Some of you may have read this wrong; it's "if you break one" ...not; only if you break all ten.

6. This young man could not have been who he was and not known about God's Lamb.

7. He, like the Pharisees, had come to believe that he was so good he did not need God's sacrifice for sin.

8. But Jesus said: **Matthew 5:20** For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

9. The only thing that will do that is the gift of God's perfect righteousness through faith in Jesus blood.

Romans 3:22 Even the righteousness of God *which is by faith of Jesus Christ* unto all and upon all them that believe:...

C. He was wrong about Jesus.

1. This young man saw Jesus as good when he should have seen Him as God!
2. Jesus is the only one who ever kept the law even though the law is for man and Jesus is certainly not just a man.
3. Jesus does not lead the way, Jesus IS the way!
4. **John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
5. **2Corinthians 5:21** For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.
6. **Romans 5:6** For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the

ungodly.

7. He did not die for good people; of which we already know there are none; He only died for the ungodly.

8. **Romans 5:7-9**

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Conclusion: What good thing shall I do?

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved!

Jesus knew the heart of this young man; like He knows yours. He proved to him that he did not love others as himself...do you know anyone who does?

I do. 2Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

I know one that left heaven itself to come here and suffer and bleed and die for me in my place that He might pay my debt of sin.

This young man went away lost because he couldn't give up his love for riches.

Many are the sinner who goes away lost because he is unwilling to give up his sin. How foolish is that!

Maybe you didn't read it right: It says "while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." It says "when we were without strength Christ died for us."

The Lord knows that in your condition you cannot do anything about your sin; you probably can't even want to.

Jesus died in your place; He paid for your sin, all of it, with His blood.

When the Bible tells you to repent, it is not talking about your sin, it is talking about your "dead works".

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of **repentance from dead works**, and of faith toward God,

When I placed my trust in Jesus to save me; I and all my sin became His problem.

He is the one the grave could not hold; He can handle your sin problem and he will do it all by Himself! Won't you trust Him?