

TITLE: A LESSON ON OBTAINING ETERNAL LIFE

TEXT: MATTHEW 19:16-22

INTRODUCTION: (1) JESUS WOULD HAVE FAILED PERSONAL EVANGELISM CLASS 101 OR SOUL WINNING IN MANY BIBLE COLLEGES AND SEMINARIES TODAY.

* THE REASON BEING, HE DID NOT FOLLOW PRESCRIBED PROTOCOL IN HANDLING THE YOUNG MAN IN OUR TEXT WHO CAME TO HIM - THE RICH YOUNG RULER.

** JESUS DID NOT USE A PACKAGED FORM OF THE GOSPEL LIKE THE 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS OR THE ROMANS ROAD IN DEALING WITH THIS MAN.

*** BEYOND THAT, IT APPEARS THAT HE GAVE A MESSAGE OF WORKS AND DID NOT EVEN MENTION FAITH OR THE FACTS OF REDEMPTION.

**** NOR DID JESUS CHALLENGE THE MAN TO BELIEVE. HE FAILED TO GET CLOSURE OR TO USE **OUR TERMINOLOGY TODAY, "HE FAILED TO DRAW THE NET"** TO GET HIM TO PRAY, TO MAKE A DECISION, TO CLOSE THE DEAL.

***** FOLKS, JESUS FAILED TO SIGN THE YOUNG MAN UP.

(2) AND AFTER ALL, WHEN A PERSON COMES ALONG SAYING HE WANTS ETERNAL LIFE, YOU **CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY, RIGHT? HE'S A HOT PROSPECT!**

* YET, OUR IDEAS OF EVANGELISM CANNOT INDICT JESUS; RATHER HE MUST JUDGE CONTEMPORARY METHODS OF EVANGELISM - **HE'S THE HOLY STANDARD.**

** AND TRAGICALLY MUCH OF MODERN EVANGELISM IS PREOCCUPIED WITH DECISIONS, STATISTICS, AISLE WALKING, GIMMICKS, PREFABRICATED PRESENTATIONS, PITCHES, EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION AND EVEN PRESSURE.

*** AND I KNOW THAT, BECAUSE FOR YEARS **THAT'S WHAT I WAS TAUGHT AND PRACTICED,** AND DID IT SINCERELY, TRYING TO REACH THE LOST.

**** I WOULD GO DOOR TO DOOR, OR THE MALL, OR THE STARK COUNTY FAIR AND ON VISITATION, AND GET A LOT OF PEOPLE TO **QUOTE "PRAY THE SINNER'S PRAYER" BY THE** CANNED SALESMANSHIP TECHNIQUES THAT I USED (30 SOMETHING AT THE FAIR.)

(3) AND THEN I USED TO TELL THEM TO NEVER DOUBT THEIR SALVATION NO MATTER WHAT, BECAUSE THAT WAS FROM THE DEVIL.

* I TOLD THEM THEY WERE CHRISTIANS AND NEVER TO DOUBT IT.

** NOW THE RESULT OF THAT AND THE RESULTS OF THAT KIND OF EVANGELISM BY OTHERS, IS A MULTITUDE OF PEOPLE THINK THEY ARE SAVED BECAUSE THEY ACKNOWLEDGED JESUS AND PRAYED A PRAYER, BUT LIVE LIKE THE DEVIL.

*** AND BELOVED, THE AFTERMATH IS APPALLING FAILURE, AS SEEN IN THE LIVES OF MULTITUDES WHO HAVE PROFESSED FAITH IN CHRIST WITH NO CONSEQUENT IMPACT ON THEIR BEHAVIOR.

**** AND ONLY GOD KNOWS HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE DELUDED INTO BELIEVING THEY ARE SAVED WHEN THEY ARE NOT BECAUSE OF EVANGELISTIC METHODS THAT DO NOT LINE UP WITH SCRIPTURE AND OUR SAVIOR.

(4) WELL, THOSE THOUGHTS LEAD US TO OUR **TEXT, FOR IN OUR PASSAGE TODAY WE'LL GET** AN UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL EXAMPLE OF HOW JESUS DEALT WITH A HOT PROSPECT, SUPPOSEDLY AN EAGER SEEKER.

*** AND WE'LL SEE THAT HOW JESUS DEALT WITH** THIS YOUNG MAN IS RADICALLY DIFFERENT FROM SOME OF THE WAYS EVANGELISM AND WITNESSING ARE DONE TODAY.

** AND INSTEAD OF TAKING THIS RICH YOUNG RULER WHERE HE WAS AND GETTING HIM TO MAKE A "DECISION," JESUS LAID OUT TERMS TO WHICH HE WAS NOT WILLING TO SUBMIT.

*** AND IN A SENSE, JESUS CHASED HIM OFF! SO WHAT WENT WRONG? HE SEEMED TO START SO WELL, YET TURNED AWAY FROM CHRIST GRIEVED, WITHOUT RECEIVING ETERNAL LIFE, WHAT HE APPEARED TO WANT.

****** WELL, THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO STUDY TODAY, AND I'VE TITLED OUR STUDY, "A LESSON ON OBTAINING ETERNAL LIFE."** (AND OF COURSE OUR LESSON IS FROM THE MASTER TEACHER, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.)

(5) AND UNDER THAT THEME WE'LL LOOK AT 4 POINTS. NO. 1 THE REQUEST TO JESUS BY THIS YOUNG MAN, V. 16; NO. 2 THE RESPONSE BY JESUS TO THIS YOUNG MAN, VV. 17-19; NO. 3 THE REPLY BY THE YOUNG MAN AND JESUS, VV. 20&21; AND NO. 4 THE REACTION BY THE YOUNG MAN, V. 22.

*** SO WE'LL LOOK AT THE REQUEST, THE RESPONSE, THE REPLY AND THE REACTION UNDER THE THEME OF "A LESSON ON OBTAINING ETERNAL LIFE."**

**** AND WITH THOSE POINTS TO GUIDE US, LOOK AT MATTHEW 19:16 WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE REQUEST BY THIS YOUNG MAN. LOOK AT MATTHEW 19:16 PLEASE.**

I. THE REQUEST, (READ V. 16)

A. NOW FROM V. 20 WE LEARN THAT THE ONE WHO CAME TO JESUS WAS A YOUNG MAN, AND FROM V. 22 THAT HE WAS WEALTHY.

* AND LUKE IN HIS PARALLEL PASSAGE IN LUKE 18:18 INFORMS US THAT HE WAS ALSO A RULER, PROBABLY A RULER IN THE SYNAGOGUE, AN ESPECIALLY HONORED POSITION FOR A YOUNG MAN.

** NOW BEYOND THAT, MARK IN HIS COMPANION PASSAGE TO OUR TEXT SAID IN MARK 10:17 THAT THIS RICH YOUNG RULER RAN UP TO JESUS AND KNELT BEFORE HIM.

*** SO HE COMES IN HASTE AND HE COMES IN RESPECT, KNEELING BEFORE JESUS RECOGNIZING HIS HONORED STATUS AS A TEACHER.

**** IN FACT IN OUR TEXT IN V. 16, HE ADDRESSES JESUS SAYING **"TEACHER"**.

1. AND SAYS, **"WHAT SHALL I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?"**

* NOW LET ME TRY TO PUT THIS TOGETHER, TO UNPACK IT. THIS RICH YOUNG RULER CAME WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE, HE CAME TO THE RIGHT SOURCE - JESUS, AND HE ASKED THE RIGHT QUESTION AT LEAST ABOUT ETERNAL LIFE.

** AND **ALTHOUGH THE WORD "DO", WHAT SHALL I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE DOES HAVE OVERTONES OF WORKS SALVATION, UNDERSTAND THAT'S HIS BACKGROUND.**

*** AND **THAT'S WHAT HE WAS TAUGHT IN HIS DAY IN JEWISH CIRCLES. WORKS-RIGHTEOUSNESS. THEY WERE ALWAYS THINKING WORKS AND EXTERNALS TO BE SAVED.**

**** IN FACT IN JOHN 6:28&29 THIS IS BASICALLY WHAT THE MULTITUDE FROM CAPERNAUM ASKED JESUS, QUOTE JOHN 6:28&29.

2. SO WORKS WERE ON THE JEWS MINDS WHEN IT CAME TO OBTAINING ETERNAL LIFE, AND THAT WAS ON HIS MIND, BUT LET ME SAY IN DEFENSE OF THE RICH YOUNG RULER, THAT THIS IS THE MOST CRUCIAL QUESTION A PERSON CAN ASK.

* I MEAN THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT **THAN OUR SOUL'S DESTINY, ALTHOUGH THINGS** PRESS ON US TO GET US SIDETRACKED ABOUT ETERNITY – **WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT.**

** AND THE VERY PURPOSE AND MEANING OF SALVATION IS TO BRING ETERNAL LIFE TO THOSE WHO, BECAUSE OF SIN, FACE ETERNAL DEATH, **AND TO PUT GOD'S GRACE AND GLORY** ON DISPLAY, FOR ROMANS 6:23 SAYS: (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE JOHN 3:16 & 3:36, JOHN 5:24.

*** SO ETERNAL LIFE IS A CRUCIAL ISSUE. PREPARING TO MEET GOD IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE, FOR US AS HUMAN BEINGS.

**** AND THIS YOUNG MAN ASKS THAT QUESTION, **“WHAT GOOD THING SHALL I DO THAT I MAY OBTAIN ETERNAL LIFE?”**

3. WELL, JESUS' RESPONSE IS AMAZING IN V. 17, AND IT IS NOT THE TYPICAL WAY THAT WE NORMALLY DEAL WITH A HOT PROSPECT. LOOK AT V. 17 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE RESPONSE.

II. THE RESPONSE, (READ V. 17)

A. NOW INSTEAD OF TAKING THIS YOUNG MAN AT FACE VALUE AND ASKING HIM TO MAKE A **“DECISION FOR CHRIST”**, JESUS WENT MUCH DEEPER IN SEARCHING OUT THE STATE OF HIS HEART AND TESTED HIS TRUE PURPOSE AND MOTIVATION.

* AND INSTEAD OF REJOICING THAT THE MAN WAS APPARENTLY WILLING TO RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE AND ENCOURAGING HIM TO SIMPLY PRAY A PRAYER OR AFFIRM HIS FAITH, JESUS ASKED HIM A QUESTION IN RETURN THAT WAS IMMENSELY DISCONCERTING.

** AND THE QUESTION WAS, **"WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME ABOUT WHAT IS GOOD?"** AND THEN JESUS COMMENTS, **"THERE IS ONLY ONE WHO IS GOOD."**

*** NOW WHY THIS RESPONSE? WELL, IT APPEARS TO PRY OUT OF THIS MAN JUST WHO HE THOUGHT JESUS WAS.

**** FOR JESUS WILL COMMUNICATE IN MARK 10:18 AND LUKE 18:19 IN THE PARALLEL TEXTS, **"WHY DO YOU CALL ME GOOD? NO ONE IS GOOD EXCEPT GOD ALONE."**

1. THE POINT BEING, DID THIS RICH YOUNG RULER REALIZE THAT THE ONE WHOM HE WAS ASKING ABOUT WHAT IS GOOD WAS HIMSELF THE ONE WHO IS GOOD, NAMELY, GOD?

* HAD HE COME TO JESUS FOR DIVINE HELP BECAUSE HE BELIEVED JESUS HIMSELF TO BE DIVINE? FOR ONLY GOD IS INTRINSICALLY GOOD, GOOD IN THE ABSOLUTE SENSE, GOOD AS FAR AS HIS BEING AND CHARACTER ARE CONCERNED, QUOTE PSALM 107:1, PSALM 34:8. (ALSO QUOTE THAT IN CONTRAST MAN IS NOT INHERENTLY GOOD, PSALM 14:1&3, ROMANS 3:10-12).

** NOW IT APPEARS TO ME THAT JESUS ASKED THIS QUESTION ABOUT WHAT IS GOOD, NOT BECAUSE HE NEEDED AN ANSWER, FOR HE **ALREADY KNEW IT, HE'S GOD, BUT** THIS MAN NEEDED TO SEE WHO JESUS TRULY WAS.

*** AND BECAUSE THE MAN MADE NO RESPONSE CONCERNING THE ONLY ONE WHO IS GOOD, IT SEEMS CERTAIN THAT HE VIEWED JESUS AS NO MORE THAN AN ESPECIALLY GIFTED HUMAN TEACHER.

**** AND YES HE CAME TO THE RIGHT SOURCE FOR THE ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION, BUT HE DID NOT RECOGNIZE THAT SOURCE FOR WHO HE REALLY WAS.

2. WHICH I BELIEVE WILL BE CONFIRMED BY HIS ULTIMATE RESPONSE IN WALKING AWAY GRIEVED. I BELIEVE HE SAW JESUS AS A GOOD TEACHER WHO COULD ANSWER HIS QUESTION BECAUSE HE WAS A GOOD TEACHER, BUT NOT AS THE MESSIAH, THE SAVIOR, GOD HIMSELF, THE ONLY ONE WHO IS TRULY GOOD, THE CHRIST WHO WOULD BE EXALTED.

* NOW AS WE MOVE ON IN V. 17, NOTE THAT JESUS DID NOT RESPOND BY IMMEDIATELY SHOWING THE WAY OF SALVATION BECAUSE THIS MAN WAS MISSING AN ESSENTIAL QUALITY.

** HE LACKED THE SENSE OF HIS OWN SINFULNESS, AND JESUS HAD TO POINT THAT **OUT. FOR LOOK AT JESUS' NEXT COMMENT IN** THE REST OF V. 17.

***** "IF YOU WISH TO ENTER INTO LIFE, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS."**

**** NOW JUDGED BY THE PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGY OF MUCH CONTEMPORARY EVANGELISM, JESUS SEEMS TO HAVE MADE A SERIOUS MISTAKE.

3. HE NOT ONLY DID NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF **THIS MAN'S OBVIOUS READINESS TO MAKE "A DECISION,"** BUT HE EVEN SEEMED TO BE TEACHING SALVATION BY WORKS, SALVATION BY KEEPING THE LAW.

*** BUT HE'S NOT. JESUS WILL USE THE LAW TO TRY TO SHOW THIS MAN HIS NEED. FOR THIS YOUNG MAN'S PROBLEM LAY IN ASSUMING HE WAS RIGHTEOUS, HAVING KEPT ALL THE LAW, WHICH WE'LL SEE IN V. 20.**

** BUT ALSO, THE LAW WAS THE REQUIREMENT **FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS BY GOD'S STANDARDS**, BUT NO ONE EXCEPT THE MESSIAH COULD KEEP THE LAW; THUS THE LAW WAS USED TO SHOW US OUR SIN, OUR LACK OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND DRIVE US TO CHRIST, QUOTE JAMES 2:10, ROMANS 3:20&23 AND GALATIANS 3:24&25. A GOOD TACTIC!

*** NOW WITH THOSE VERSES IN MIND, WE SEE **THAT THE LORD'S ANSWER WAS TO MAKE THIS RICH YOUNG MAN**, WHO IS PRETTY SELF-SUFFICIENT, SEE HIS NEED AND THAT NO ONE IS CAPABLE OF EARNING ETERNAL LIFE, AND THAT THE RICH YOUNG RULER IS TALKING TO GOD.

**** BUT NOTICE HIS RESPONSE TO JESUS IN V. **18. I DON'T THINK HE GETS IT. LOOK AT V. 18 PLEASE.**

B. READ V. 18. NOW THE FALSE CONFIDENCE OF THIS RICH YOUNG RULER WAS SEEN IN HIS **RESPONSE, HE SAID, "WHICH ONES?"** IN REFERENCE TO THE COMMANDMENTS AND KEEPING THEM.

*** AND THE IMPLICATION SEEMS TO BE, "I HAVE READ THE COMMANDMENTS MANY TIMES. I MEMORIZED THEM WHEN I WAS A SMALL BOY, AND I HAVE CAREFULLY KEPT THEM EVER SINCE."**

**** "HOW COULD I HAVE MISSED ANY? WHICH ONES COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE IN MIND?"**

***** AND JESUS RESPONDS IN THE REST OF V. 18 WITH 4 OF THE 10 COMMANDMENTS, AND THEN ADDS ANOTHER AND WHAT WE CALL THE 2'D GREATEST COMMANDMENT IN V. 19. LOOK AT V. 19 PLEASE.**

C. READ V. 19. NOW KEEPING V. 19 IN MIND, AND THE LAST PART OF V. 18, JESUS RESPONDED BY LISTING THE SIXTH, SEVENTH, EIGHTH, NINTH AND THE FIFTH **COMMANDMENTS IN GOD'S TOP TEN** IN THE DECALOGUE IN THAT ORDER IN EXODUS 20.

*** AND THEN JESUS ADDS "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF" FROM LEVITICUS 19:18, WHAT JESUS CALLED THE 2'D GREATEST** COMMANDMENT IN MATTHEW 22:39. QUOTE MATTHEW 22:37-40.

** NOW WHY DID JESUS GIVE THOSE COMMANDMENTS? WELL, ALL THESE COMMANDMENTS DEAL WITH HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS, WHAT ARE CALLED THE SECOND TABLE OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. COMMUNICATING THE FIRST TABLE COMMANDMENTS RELATING TO GOD - COMMANDMENTS 1-4 AND THE SECOND TABLE COMMANDMENTS RELATING TO MAN - COMMANDMENTS 5-10.

*** AND JESUS, KNOWING HIS POINT OF SIN, TOOK HIM TO THESE COMMANDMENTS, SUMMED UP IN LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF, AS THE BARRIER, AS THE ISSUE, AS THE WEAKEST AREA OF LIFE, HIS POINT OF SIN.

**** FOR LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF MEANS THAT IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING IN ABUNDANCE, YOU SHARE WITH OTHERS AROUND YOU IF THERE IS GENUINE NEED.

1. AND THIS MAN WAS ACCORDING TO LUKE 18:23, **"EXTREMELY RICH"**.

*** AND WE'LL SEE IN V. 22, THAT THIS MAN DOES NOT WANT TO LET GO OF HIS RICHES TO HELP OTHERS, AGAIN THE COMMANDMENTS JESUS QUOTED DEAL WITH OTHERS AND HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS.**

**** WHICH LEADS US TO OUR 3'D POINT TODAY, BEGINNING IN V. 20, THE REPLY OF THIS MAN, WHICH WILL LEAD TO A REPLY BY JESUS. LOOK AT V. 20 PLEASE.**

III. THE REPLY, (READ V. 20)

A. NOW THE RICH YOUNG RULER'S REPLY IN V. 20 SHOWS THAT HE DOESN'T GET IT, HE IS CLUELESS, AND PRIDE AND SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS HAVE BLINDED HIS VISION.

* AND IT MAY HAVE BEEN THAT HE THOUGHT HE HAD KEPT ALL OF THESE COMMANDMENTS BECAUSE HIS VIEW OF THE LAW, INFLUENCED BY RELIGIONISTS OF HIS DAY WAS COMPLETELY SUPERFICIAL, EXTERNAL AND MAN ORIENTED - THEY HAD LOWERED THE STANDARD.

** FOR BUT KEEPING **GOD'S COMMANDMENTS** GOES BEYOND KEEPING THEM EXTERNALLY BUT ALSO KEEPING THEM FROM THE HEART.

*** I MEAN PROBABLY HE HAD NOT MURDERED, BUT HATING SOMEONE IN YOUR HEART IS THE ROOT SIN OF MURDER, QUOTE I JOHN 3:15.

**** AND MAYBE HE NEVER HAD COMMITTED PHYSICAL ADULTERY BUT JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW 5:28 (QUOTE IT).

1. SO OBEDIENCE IS ALWAYS A HEART ISSUE. AND LIKE MOST OF HIS JEWISH CONTEMPORARIES, HE TOTALLY FAILED TO SEE THAT THE MOSAIC COMMANDS WERE NOT GIVEN AS A MEANS FOR HUMANLY ACHIEVING **GOD'S** STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT **WERE GIVEN AS PICTURES OF GOD'S** RIGHTEOUSNESS AND CHARACTER AND TO **DRIVE US TO CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT** NEEDS TO BE PUT ON OUR ACCOUNT.

* BELOVED THIS MAN WAS BLINDED BY HIS PRIDE, BY HIS SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS!

** AND I SEE THIS ALL THE TIME, AND EVEN HEARD IT MANY YEARS AGO ON A RADIO TALK SHOW WHOSE HOST WAS READING E-MAILS ABOUT TIMOTHY MCVEIGH, THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBER, BEING IN HELL (HE WAS EXECUTED IN 1995) AND HOW HITLER WAS THERE AND EVEN NIXON.

*** AND ALMOST EVERYONE BELIEVES THAT TIMOTHY MCVEIGH IS IN HELL BECAUSE HE KILLED 168 PEOPLE AND PEOPLE SEE THEMSELVES IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT THAN HIM OR A CONTEMPORARY, PRESIDENT ASSAD IN SYRIA, OSAMA BIN LADEN, SADDAM HUSSEIN, ETC.

**** BUT OUR PROBLEM IS **WE LOWER GOD'S STANDARD. WE MINIMIZE CERTAIN SINS BECAUSE WE DON'T UNDERSTAND GOD'S HOLINESS AND GOD'S JUSTICE.**

2. SO WE EVALUATE SIN ON A RELATIVE SCALE, ASSUMING SOME SINS ARE LESS SERIOUS THAN OTHERS, ESPECIALLY OUR OWN.

* AND WE COMPARE OURSELVES TO A MURDERER AND WE LOOK PRETTY GOOD. BUT COMPARE YOURSELF TO JESUS CHRIST AND YOU **LOOK PRETTY BAD. AND THAT'S GOD'S** STANDARD, PERFECTION.

**** AND WE DON'T COME CLOSE. AND WE MUST** SEE THAT OUR LYING, AND LUSTS, AND COVETOUSNESS, PRIDE, HATRED, AND NOT FORGIVING OTHERS, AND OUR SELFISHNESS IS SIN, AND GOD HATES ALL SIN, AND THAT WE ARE NOT DEPRIVED, THAT WE ARE DEPRAVED.

*** AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, WE SEE SOMETHING ESSENTIAL TO BE SAVED - OUR SINFULNESS AND NEED OF CHRIST - OUR NEED OF A SAVIOR!

**** AND UNDERSTAND THIS, THE RICH YOUNG RULER WAS AWARE OF WHAT HE DID NOT HAVE AND NEEDED TO RECEIVE, NAMELY ETERNAL LIFE.

3. BUT HE WAS NOT WILLING TO ADMIT WHAT HE DID HAVE AND NEEDED TO BE RID OF, NAMELY SIN.

* HE HAD TOO MUCH SPIRITUAL PRIDE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HE WAS SINFUL BY NATURE AND THAT HIS WHOLE LIFE FELL SHORT **OF GOD'S HOLINESS AND WAS AN OFFENSE TO HIM.**

** HIS DESIRE FOR ETERNAL LIFE, FOR THE BENEFITS OF GOD, WAS CENTERED IN HIS OWN FELT NEEDS AND LONGINGS, BUT NOT HIS SIN.

*** BUT JESUS IN HIS LOVE FOR THIS MAN, WILL MAKE ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO MAKE THIS SELF-SATISFIED YOUNG RULER FACE HIS TRUE SPIRITUAL CONDITION.

**** AND JESUS DID LOVE THIS MAN, FOR MARK **10:21 TELLS US THAT "JESUS FELT A LOVE FOR HIM."**

- AND IN HIS LOVE HE SAYS ONE MORE THING TO HIM, LOOK AT V. 21 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 21. NOW IN V. 21 THE WORD COMPLETE OR PERFECT DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE IS A SYNONYM FOR SALVATION, COMING TO SALVATION, TO COMPLETENESS IN THAT SENSE.

* AND JESUS WAS SAYING, IF YOU TRULY DESIRE ETERNAL LIFE, PROVE YOUR SINCERITY BY SELLING YOUR POSSESSIONS AND GIVING WHAT YOU HAVE TO THE POOR.

** AND IF HE TRULY LIVED UP TO THE MOSAIC COMMAND TO LOVE HIS NEIGHBOR AS HIMSELF, HE WOULD BE WILLING TO DO WHAT JESUS NOW COMMANDED.

*** AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO OBEY THAT COMMAND WOULD NOT EARN OR MERIT SALVATION, BUT IT WOULD BE EVIDENCE THAT HE TRULY DESIRED SALVATION ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE, AS A PRICELESS TREASURE OR A PEARL OF GREAT PRICE FOR WHICH NO SACRIFICE COULD BE TOO GREAT, WHAT IS COMMUNICATED IN TWO OF THE PARABLES IN MATTHEW 13:44-46.

**** AND THE ULTIMATE TEST WAS WHETHER OR NOT THE MAN WAS WILLING TO OBEY THE LORD. THE REAL ISSUE PRESENTED WAS LORDSHIP, WHO WILL BE LORD OF YOUR LIFE, YOU OR ME?

1. AND THERE WAS NO BETTER WAY TO FIND OUT IF THIS MAN WAS READY TO RECEIVE CHRIST AS HIS LORD THAN TO ASK HIM TO GIVE UP HIS RICHES.

* I MEAN THE LORD CHALLENGED HIS WEALTH TO FORCE HIM TO SEE HIS SIN AND WHAT WAS MOST VALUABLE TO HIM.

** WOULD HE FOLLOW GOLD OR GOD? WOULD HE FOLLOW RICHES OR CHRIST? FOR JESUS **SAID AT THE END OF V. 21, "COME FOLLOW ME"** WHICH IS A CALL TO SALVATION.

***** WELL THE YOUNG MAN'S REACTION IS GIVEN** IN V. 22, OUR LAST POINT AND VERSE TODAY, THE REACTION. LOOK AT V. 22 PLEASE.

IV. THE REACTION, (READ V. 22)

A. NOW THE REACTION OF THIS MAN WAS, HE WENT AWAY GRIEVED, HE WAS SAD, HE WAS SORROWFUL.

* WHY? HE WANTED ETERNAL LIFE, BUT NOT AT THAT COST, NOT AT THAT PRICE.

** AND IT IS NOT THAT SELLING OUR POSSESSIONS AND GIVING THEM TO THE POOR SAVES US, IT DOES NOT. NO WORKS, ONLY FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE, CAN SAVE US.

*** BUT A WILLINGNESS TO GIVE UP HIS PROPERTY WOULD HAVE REVEALED A HEART THAT WAS READY TO TRULY TURN TO CHRIST FOR SALVATION.

**** THIS RICH YOUNG MAN WORSHIPPED MONEY MORE THAN GOD WHEN PUT TO THE TEST. HE WAS UNDER THE GRIP OF MATERIALISM, AND AT THAT POINT OF SIN THAT JESUS CONFRONTED, HE WAS NOT WILLING TO REPENT OF IT.

1. BELOVED, THE PROPERTY HE OWNED REALLY OWNED HIM, AND HE WOULD RATHER BE ITS SERVANT THAN JESUS.

* HE WANTED ETERNAL LIFE, BUT NOT AS MUCH AS HE WANTED TO KEEP HIS PROPERTY. HIS MASTER WOULD NOT BE JESUS, BUT HIS THINGS.

AND AS I WRAP UP THINGS TODAY: (1) I WANT TO MAKE TWO BIG APPLICATIONS, ONE TO BELIEVERS AND ONE TO THOSE WITHOUT CHRIST.

* AND NO. 1 TO TRUE BELIEVERS. UNDERSTAND THAT EVANGELISM OR PERSONAL WITNESSING OR PREACHING THAT DOES NOT CONFRONT PEOPLE WITH THEIR UTTER SINFULNESS AND HELPLESSNESS IS NOT FAITHFUL TO THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, NO MATTER HOW MUCH HIS NAME AND HIS WORD MAY BE INVOKED. A JOEL OSTEEN GOSPEL.

** A PROFESSION OF CHRIST THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE OF SIN **AND SUBMISSION TO CHRIST'S LORDSHIP**, DOES NOT BRING SALVATION, NO MATTER HOW MUCH EMOTION MAY RESULT.

*** AND TO TELL AN UNBELIEVER THAT GOD HAS A WONDERFUL PLAN FOR HIS LIFE CAN BE MISLEADING, FOR IF THEY DO NOT TURN TO **CHRIST, GOD'S ONLY PLAN FOR THEM IS DAMNATION.**

**** AND IN THE SAME WAY IT IS MISLEADING **TO TELL AN UNBELIEVER ONLY ABOUT GOD'S LOVE, WITHOUT TELLING HIM OF GOD'S HOLINESS, JUSTICE AND WRATH.**

(2) BUT UNFORTUNATELY MANY GOSPEL PRESENTATIONS TODAY ARE ALL GOOD NEWS WITH NO BAD NEWS. AND YES WE NEED GOOD NEWS, BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF LEAVING OUT THE BAD NEWS OF OUR SIN AND REBELLION.

* IN BALANCE WE MUST LIFT UP THE EXALTED CHRIST AS JARED PREACHED ABOUT LAST YEAR AND COMMUNICATE WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE, NO CONTRADICTION.

** HOWEVER, WE ALSO NEED TO COMMUNICATE **GOD'S HOLY** LAW AS A MEANS TO DRIVE PEOPLE TO CHRIST. AND THEN AS SAMUEL BOLTON **WISELY COMMENTED, "WHEN YOU SEE THAT MEN HAVE BEEN WOUNDED BY THE LAW, THEN IT IS TIME TO POUR IN THE GOSPEL OIL."** TO COMMUNICATE THE LOVE AND MERCY AND GRACE OF CHRIST.

** SO **LET'S ADJUST OUR GOSPEL PRESENTATION TO THE STANDARD OF GOD'S WORD, AND LET US GO OUT AND PROCLAIM IT FAITHFULLY AND PUTTING SOVEREIGN GRACE AT IT'S CORE.**

(3) LAST OF ALL, MAYBE YOU'VE COME IN TODAY, THINKING THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, AND YOU'VE REALIZED THAT YOU DON'T HAVE IT, BUT WANT IT.

* **AND MAYBE YOU'RE LIKE THE RICH YOUNG RULER AND THINK IN YOUR PRIDE AND SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT YOU WERE "GOOD ENOUGH".**

**** BUT MAYBE SINCE YOU'VE COME IN TODAY,**
YOU SEE YOUR SIN AND NEED OF CHRIST. IF
YOU DO, I CALL YOU TO CHRIST TODAY, SUBMIT
TO HIS LORDSHIP, TO TURN FROM YOUR SIN,
YOUR WAY AND FOLLOW CHRIST.

*** ETERNAL LIFE IS THE MOST PRECIOUS
POSSESSION IN A SENSE, AND IT ONLY COMES
THROUGH CHRIST. I CLOSE WITH TWO VERSES,
ACTS 4:12 AND II COR. 13:5. (QUOTE THEM AND
PRAY).