

Important Lessons From The Rich Young Ruler

Scripture Text: Mark 10:17-22

About the Text:

- 1) Jesus was near the Jordan river when this event occurred (verse 1).
- 2) He was on the road away from this place when the rich young ruler came running up to Him with a question.
- 3) This man wanted to know what to do to inherit eternal life.
- 4) He was seeking salvation.
- 5) Jesus answered his question, though not with the answer he was expecting.

I. THE RICH YOUNG RULER CAME TO THE RIGHT SOURCE.

1. He recognized that Jesus was the one to whom he needed to come to get spiritual answers.
2. John 8:24
3. Acts 4:12
4. 1 Timothy 2:5, 6
5. He even seemed to have the right attitude-he ran, and he kneeled. He appears to be sincere.

II. THIS MAN ASKED THE RIGHT QUESTION AND RECEIVED A CORRECT ANSWER.

1. "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"
 - 1) Same question was asked in Acts 2:27 "Men and brethren what shall we do?"
 - 2) Saul asked this question in Acts 9:6, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"
 - 3) The jailer said in Acts 16:30, "What must I do to be saved?"
2. This is a question that many ask today in religion.
 - 1) Some say that there is nothing one can do to inherit eternal life.
 - 2) There are others who say that you must do certain actions which will merit your salvation.
 - 3) The truth is that we must obey, but that this doesn't merit our salvation. Acts 2:40 "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."
 - 4) Phil. 2:12
3. Jesus answer here was consistent with the truth in this regard.
 - 1) Jesus tells this man to obey the commands of God.

- 2) This is Jesus first answer to his question.
- 3) Today, we are under similar obligation to obey God.
- 4) 1 John 5:2, 3
- 5) There should be no doubt in our minds that when it comes to eternal life, we need to obey God.
- 6) There was, however, an additional element which this man needed to be saved.

III. THIS MAN RECEIVED A SECOND ANSWER.

1. This man's response to Jesus was that he had done all of these things from his youth.
2. It appears as if he was telling the truth, because the text said Jesus loved him.
3. It was the second answer, however, that this man was not expecting Jesus to give-sell all you have and give it to the poor; take up your cross and follow me.
 - 1) Does this mean that we must sell everything that we have and give it to the poor?
 - 2) Not necessarily.
 - 3) Jesus was calling upon this man to give up the one thing that came between him and God.
 - 4) With us it may be something else.
 - 5) What that is, only we can tell.
4. Jesus asked the man to dedicate himself to Him without reservation.
 - 1) Matthew 6:33
 - 2) Matthew 16:24-26
 - 3) We must dedicate everything we have to God.

IV. THIS MAN, APPARENTLY, WAS NOT WILLING TO MAKE THE CHANGES HE NEEDED TO MAKE.

1. The Bible says he went away sorrowful because he had many possessions.
 - 1) He was sad: his countenance fell, his facial expression changed from excitement to distress.
 - 2) This is the same man that ran to Jesus and fell on his knees in the presence of Jesus.
 - 3) Sorrowful: grieved, saddened, upset.
2. The truth is that he didn't possess those possessions, they possessed him.
 - 1) When we are possessed by something other than God, God will demand that we give it up.

2) Romans 6:16

3) John 8:34

3. So the text says that he “went away.”

1) The Savior was not to blame in this.

2) How often do we hear people today saying, “If you would just let up a little and be more compromising, then we would have greater crowds, responses, and influence!”

3) This was not Jesus’ choice.

4) Jesus did not compromise His principles one millimeter to gain the influence of a wealthy man.

5) Whose fault is it today when people do not hear the message of the gospel?

6) Galatians 1:10-12

4. We must be willing to change to follow Jesus.

1) This is repentance.

2) Luke 13:3, 5 “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

3) Acts 17:30 God now demands that all men everywhere repent.

Let us learn from this Rich Young Ruler

1) Jesus is the right source for answers to spiritual question.

2) Jesus will always give us the correct answer to our spiritual questions.

3) Jesus will always challenge us to give up what comes between us and Him.

4) We must be willing to make the changes we need to make to follow Jesus.

Invitation

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