

YOUNG RICH AND FOOLISH

Objective: To show the importance of salvation in the story of the young rich ruler.
 Subject: Obedience
 Thesis: Salvation is for sinners who come to God for forgiveness
 Text: Matthew 19:16-22

ATTENTION

The Bible relates an encounter between a young man and Jesus.

- The book of Luke tells us he was a ruler
- Matthew, Mark and Luke state that he was rich

In scripture he is referred to as the RICH YOUNG RULER

1. By being rich he had possessions
2. By being young he had potential and possibilities
3. And by being a ruler he had power

He had it made! His future was secured

But the longer you live the more you will realize it is not what you have, but who you have!

- If you have riches you can lose them
- If you have fame it can fly away
- If you have a name someone can stain it

PUNCH: BUT!! If you have Jesus you have everything:

NEED

The Bible says that this rich, young and powerful man came to Jesus:

Matthew 19:16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

It appears that this young man had come to that point where he sensed the need of salvation even before he asked Jesus the question.

To the human eye, he looked like the hottest evangelistic prospect the Lord had encountered so far.

The guy had:

- A. The right motive
- B. The right attitude
- C. He asked the right question
- D. And he came to the right source

He was as Wesley stated:

An **almost** Christian but not an **altogether** Christian!

- An almost Christian goes part of the way but not all the way!
 - An almost Christian is willing to sacrifice some things but not everything
 - An almost Christian will go to church but he has problems with being committed
 - An almost Christian stays on the edge
1. Judas was an almost Christian
 2. Felix almost became a Christian
 3. Demas was an almost Christian
 4. Peter was an almost Christian but when he got it together he became an altogether Christian.

It appears from this narrative that Jesus chased him off.

Instead of taking him from where he was and getting him to make a decision, Jesus laid out terms to which he was unwilling to submit.

- It appears that Jesus failed to get closure
- It appears that Jesus failed to draw the net
- It appears that Jesus failed to sign up the young man for baptism

What is the problem?

This young man did not just come to an evangelist; he came to the source of eternal life.

1 John 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us **eternal life**, and **this life** is in his Son.

Not only is Jesus the source of eternal life.

PUNCH: He is eternal life!

The young man was looking in the right place and he knew he was looking in the right place.

And he did not hide like Nicodemus who visited Jesus in the night; he came in the day.

SATISFACTION

Jesus' reply to the guy's question casts the story in a different perspective.

Mark 10:18 And Jesus said unto him, *Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.*

It appears that he did not believe that Jesus was God!

Jesus' intent was to make sure that this man knew who he really was.

And it must be noted that Jesus who was born of a virgin is verily man and verily God.

He is not a prophet. He is the God/man! (Isaiah 9:6)

Nevertheless, though the rich young ruler did not acknowledge that Christ was God in the flesh, he had certainly come to the right place.

Now as you read the last section of Matthew 19:17 the narrative takes an extraordinary turn.

Jesus' answer to the young man seems outrageous!

Matthew 19:17 ...*but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.*

(ISV) *If you want to get into that life, you must keep the commandments."*

- Jesus revealed nothing of himself
- He did not invite the man to believe
- He did not ask for a decision
- He did not pray

Instead He erected a wall in front of him, which drew the young man to a sudden stop.

But strictly speaking Jesus gave the right answer.

Because if a person could keep the law all his life, dotting the 'Is' and crossing the 'Ts', he would be perfect, sinless!

But no one except the Savior can achieve this since we were born in sin!

And it is clear in the book of the Romans

1. The law cannot justify anyone.
2. It convicts man of sin.
3. But it cannot emancipate man from sin.
4. It is not a means of salvation.
5. It is a standard for Christian living.

And what is significant in this narrative is this:

In answering the guy's question Jesus preached Law to him.

Matthew 19:18 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,**

Matthew 19:19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

The young man was so deceived that he replied:

Matthew 19:20 All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

Here is a psychological paradox.

He claims to have kept all these commandments and yet he was not satisfied.

PUNCH: There is no way a man can be saved, if he clings to his self righteous attitude

Salvation is not for people who want an emotional lift

One cannot come to Jesus for salvation only on the basis of:

- Psychological needs
- An absence of joy
- A yearning for happiness

Salvation is for sinners who come to God for forgiveness. HALLELUJAH!!!

Salvation is for people who hate sin and want to give it up

Because a gospel that deals with only human needs and feelings and problems lacks true balance.

No wonder there are churches filled with people whose lives are unchanged after their supposed conversion.

- They go to places that Christians don't go
- They play lotto
- They drink liquor
- They commit fornication
- They are adulterers

I am convinced that too many Christians are unregenerate and grievously misled.

And the one who preaches cannot dismiss or omit the fact that God hates sin and punishes the sinner. GO ON!!!

VISUALIZATION

This young man failed the ultimate test.

His call was a call to sacrifice. It was a call to service

But his possessions were more important to him than Christ.

Matthew 19:22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

The rich man came for eternal life and left without it.

Many of us come to church for blessings but we leave without it! GO ON!!

Jesus ended the story by saying this:

Mark 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, **Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,**

Mark 10:30 **But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.**

Many people like the rich young fool walked away and never walked back. (True Stories)

Friends if your desire is to go to heaven you have to give up that which prevents you from getting there.

- If it is alcohol, give it up
- If it is a friend, let that friend go
- If it is a relationship, end it!
- If it is dishonesty, take it to the Lord in prayer and stop!
- If it is disobedience to the 10 commandments; obey!

ACTION

But what excites me about this story is Marks' account of his departure

Mark 10:21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him

Jesus loved this charming youth.

Jesus knew he would walk away but He still loved him

PUNCH: Today whether you walk away from Him or walk to Him; He loves you!

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2000+ years ago he laid down His life. (Talk about Calvary)

THE CALL

1. Do you love Him?
2. Do you believe He loves you?
3. He says if you love me keep my commandments.
4. Do you believe that you can love Him and keep His commandments?

Sing as you walk to the altar: Jesus paid it all!

THOUGHT

The most valuable gift you can give another is a good example