

Matthew 19:16 – 26

The Rich Young Ruler

(The King and His Kingdom)

16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”

17 So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

18 He said to Him, “Which ones?”

Jesus said, “ ‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ 19 ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

20 The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?”

21 Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

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

23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

25 When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?”

26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

PRAY

Today we are looking at a story of a Young man who had everything – Almost everything.

A) He is commonly called the Rich Young Ruler – A young man of Power wealth – integrity – morals

B)He was the kind of Young man that most parents would love for their daughters to bring home to meet them.

C)Reminded of the story of a young woman in her mid 20’s – parents were pestering her about marriage. – When Married?

1)She hadn’t been dating anyone for a while – but she met this young man she really liked – Handsome, Smart, good guy and funny.

D)After a few dates that went well She decided to bring him home for dinner to meet her parents.

1)Her mother instantly liked the guy – She thought he was great. – But her father didn’t really like him.

E)No real reason – just wasn’t feeling it.....

1)Well respecting her fathers opinion and wanting his approval – she decided not to see this young man any more.

After a few months she met another guy – She actually liked better than the first guy.

A)He was everything the first guy was – except Athletic too.

B)She liked that because she was athletic and she was sure that her father would like him –

1)Father was former football player in College.

C)Same thing happened – Mother thought the guy was great but her dad didn’t like the guy. –

1)She broke it off

D)This happened a few more times over the course of that year.

1)Each time the same result: Mom thought the guy was great – but her father didn’t like the guy.

2)She broke it off.

Then one day she met a guy who looked a lot like her dad did when he was young. He had the same personality as her dad – same mannerisms.

A)He was in almost every way – a younger version of her Dad.

B)So after a few dates she brought this guy home to meet her parents and you guessed it – Dad instantly fell in love with the guy.

1)He thought the guy was great.

C)The problem was – Her mother didn’t like the guy at all! ☺

D)Well that would not have been the case with this guy in our text – Both Parents would have liked him!

Consider THE MAN

A)Matthew tells us V.16 to Behold him = study, think about, pay attention to, take a close look.

B)I think the reason he wants us to take a good look

1)Is this guy has everything our culture says is important.

C)He is Rich – V.22 He had many possessions

1)He is V.20 Young — We live in a society obsessed with youth – look young stay young

D)Luke 18:18 He is a ruler – Man of Power and Prestige.

1)He could be a dignitary – but more likely he is a ruler of a synagogue.

E)Give away: is the way he dialogues with Jesus and his familiarity with the law –

1)lend us to believe he has a background in Judaism.

So this guy has it all – today we might say he was the WHOLE PACKAGE

A)Or someone who was well put together

B)Well groomed – nice suit – nice Car

C)And Yet one of the things this story teaches us is that – all the things our culture says are important

1)Will not bring Lasting Satisfaction

THE QUESTION: “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”

A)Eternal life = Age abiding life – Quality of Life.

B)Despite all that he has and all that he has accomplished – Something missing.

1)His life isn't what he hopes it would be

We see this all the time right – People who seemingly have it all – Still unhappy.

A)Relator friend in Oregon –Sharing Jesus with – “I don't need that - that is for struggling people.

B)Look at me – Nice house – great Job – Car – girlfriend – I have it all.

1)Problem was – Wasn't really satisfied - Wanted Bigger house – Newer Car – another girlfriend

C)I am always astonished when I read of some professional athlete or Actor – Millions – 20 mill a yr

1)Filing for Bankruptcy – or checking into rehab

D)How is that possible? - None of the things that this world says is important – Satisfies

1)Wealth: Youth – Power and Prestige –

This story ALSO teaches us that Religion doesn't satisfy either.

A)Notice Jesus' response: Why do you call me good? Jews taught - No one is good but one – that is God.

B)Are you saying: I am equal with God

1)Do you see something different in me?

C)I think that was it- He was drawn to that in Jesus and others were too! – Difference

D)Then Jesus responds:

But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

18 He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “ ‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ 19 ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

Now this is interesting: Jesus mentions commandments 5-9 – Skips 1-4 and #10

A)Honor your father and your mother.

B)No Murder, adultery, steal, bear false witness against your neighbor.

C)So he gives him commands that all relate to how he treats people – and sums it all up with Lev 19

1)Love your neighbor as your self.

D)The man astonishingly responds: I have kept all of those things since I was a youth!!!!

1)He wasn't blowing smoke –

He is not some self-righteous – arrogant dude who thought he was better than everyone else.

A)Mark's account: Jesus looked at him and Loved him!

B)Jesus saw in him a sincerely good man – A man who was trying hard to LIVE RIGHTLY.

Bb)But there was a Problem: The man said: What else am I lacking.

C) Translation: I have tried religion – I am a very religious person: But still something missing.

1) Despite his wealth, his power, his prestige and his religion – **He is still Restless!**

D) None of those things bring the lasting Satisfaction that people are looking for.

1) What else do I lack?

The Great invitation:

21 Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, (Telios = complete) go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

A) Why does Jesus say this to the man? Is Jesus against Wealth?

B) No – Many of the great men that God lays before us in Scripture were Wealthy.

1) Abraham, David, Job, Many of the great kings – Wealthy.

C) **The Bible doesn't say that Money is the root of all evil – but that the Love of money is.**

D) That was the Problem here: - This Young man loved his stuff.

Because Jesus loves us so much: He will often PINPOINT the things that have our hearts.

A) The things that are running the risk of taking the place of God in our lives.

B) Had him do this in my life many times: Career path – Baseball – Player – coach

1) Consider giving it up – Doesn't demand/ force

A relationship: Lord this doesn't make sense to me

A) Everyone says she is perfect – can't you see that.

B) She might be great – but she is not great for you.

C) Choice between: Permissive will and perfect will.

It really comes down to – are we going to accept the great invitation: FOLLOW ME!

A) Follow = come after, pursue, imitate, walk in the same direction, conform.

B) Jesus says: Are you going to follow me or follow yourself

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”

Jesus looks at you today the same way He looked at this guy: He loves you.

A) Left heaven came to the earth – died on the cross

So he could have a relationship with you.

B) I have come that you might have life and that more abundantly!

1) Invites you today – To follow Him

C) Turn your heart to him today –

Maybe you are a believer: Taken that first step – but say: Not experiencing abundant life.

A) What is it in your life right now that is keeping you from whole heartedly following Jesus?

B) Is there an area in your life that is not surrendered

C) Great way to answer that question: What thing or person would you have a hard time giving up: Jesus said stop?

D) Stop doing that? – Don't be with that person anymore? – End a relationship?

1) Would you go away sad? – Would you be like – I am not sure- I can give that up?

This story reveals for us – what the Lord really desires: Follow Him with a WHOLE heart!!!!

A) He wants you to trust Him – Follow Him whole heartedly!

B) So Jesus pinpoints the real problem – and by doing so – reveals what really had his heart.

C) The thing that had this man's heart was his wealth.

D) What has yours?

Now This man went away sad- that is where his story ends – we don't know what happened to him.

A)Did he come around? Did he follow through?

B)We don't know what happened to him- but your story is still being written.

1)How will you respond to Jesus invitation today to follow him?

C)Leave here today: Blessed and Renewed – or Sad!

Jesus also offered a Promise: You will have treasure in Heaven.

A)This is a staple in the message of the Kingdom – Eternity

B)What matters most – Eternity

C)Jesus was offering this man something that he could never earn or purchase in this life

1)Offering something – stand the test of time.

D)Peter referred to it as an inheritance that can't be stolen, doesn't rust or fade – Eternal

Jim Elliot – He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

William Gladstone who served as the British Prime Minister four times during the latter half of the 19th Century.

A)Gladstone was a committed Christian

B)One day Gladstone was approached by an admiring college student -

Gladstone asked. "What do you hope to do when you graduate from college?"

The young man replied, "I hope to attend law school, sir, just as you did."- Noble goal – then what?

"I hope to practice law and make a good name for myself defending the poor and the outcasts of society, just as you did." Gladstone. replied

"That's a noble purpose," "Then what?"

"Well, sir, I hope one day to stand for Parliament and become a servant of the people, even as you did." "That too is a noble hope. What then?"

"I would hope to be able to serve in the Parliament with great distinction, evidencing integrity and a concern for justice — even as you did."

"What then?" asked Gladstone.

"I would hope to serve the government as Prime Minister with the same vigor, dedication, vision, and integrity as you did."

"And what then?" asked Gladstone.

"I would hope to retire with honors and write my memoirs — even as you are presently doing — so that others could learn from my mistakes and triumphs."

"All of that is very noble," said Gladstone, "and then what?"

The young man thought for a moment. "Well, sir, I suppose I will then die."

"That's correct," said Gladstone. "And then what?"

The young man looked puzzled. "Well, sir," "I've never given that any thought."

A)This was Gladstone's response: "Young man," "the only advice I have for you is for you to go home, read your Bible, and think about eternity."

B)Good advice – Later is longer – Eternity is a long time!

After the man left Jesus turned to his disciples and said this: 23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

A)Now some Bible commentators try to say that the Eye of a needle was a space in the city wall.

B)After the gates were closed: the only way to get into the city was through the "eye of the needle."

1)Shaped like the Eye of a needle- Guarded

C)Small passage way- the only way that a camel could make it was it had to be stripped of cargo

1)Get down on it's knees and literally crawl through

I don't think that is what Jesus was talking about.

A) Matthew and Mark – Eye of a needle – Sewing needle – Luke – a surgeons needle

B) That is Impossible: Right – Disciple's response: Impossible – Camel can't pass through eye

1) Need a blender and a lot of time.

C) Point: Jesus is saying It is really hard –

1) The reason: Wealthy people and those who have it altogether tend to trust in those things instead of God

D) Impossible for a person who is trusting in His riches – to be saved

25 When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"

26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

But nothing is impossible with God

A) Zacchaeus and Joseph of Arimathea are great Examples

B) See God gets to the heart of the issue: Heart of the issue is a heart issue. –

C) Does Jesus have your heart?