

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final
Authority

Let's pray...

[Mar 10:17-22 NKJV] 17 Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" 18 So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one [is] good but One, [that is], God. 19 "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' " 20 And he answered and said to Him,

"Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth." 21

Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him,

"One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you

have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in

heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." 22

But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful,

for he had great possessions.

Our study this morning begins with Jesus' encounter with the rich young ruler.

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that this was a young man;

the Gospel of Luke mentions that he was a ruler; and,

together with Mark, we see he is rich. He is the rich young

ruler.

Now, from the verses we have just read, it appears that his young man has it all –

He is rich – meaning that he doesn't have to worry about what he is going to eat or where he is going to sleep at night.

He rules over people so he is somebody of significance in the community.

And also, he appears to be someone who exhibits good moral character.

However, the truth is that this rich young ruler lacks something and he knows it.

There is something that money simply can't buy.

So he runs to Jesus... the scripture tells us that he knelt before Jesus, and asked Him,

Good teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

The Greek word that is utilized for knelt means to fall on the knees, expressing reverence and honor;

He appears to be sincere in his question to Jesus as he humbles himself in front of other people in asking his question.

Please make a note:

This is the only instance in the Bible where a man comes and kneels before Jesus and leaves worse off than he came.

I also asked you to underline the words what shall I do, in his question to Jesus because the emphasis is on what the rich young ruler can do to inherit eternal life – treating eternal life as a matter of earning and deserving and not of relationship.

You see, the rich young ruler didn't want Jesus to be his savior; he wanted Jesus to show him the way to be his own savior.

So, Jesus begins by questioning the rich young ruler's idea of what good is.

Why do you call me good – only God is good?

One of the hardest things for anyone to acknowledge is to realize that we are not good.

I remember sitting through bible studies and having people adamantly proclaiming that they were good. Much like we are going to see the rich young ruler proclaim here.

You ask them, what makes you think that you are good –

And the responses are always the same...

- Well, I don't go around killing people
- I go to church on Sundays
- I give to charity

And for many of us, I feel that a lot of these feeling come from our religious backgrounds and traditions that taught us that in order for us to get to heaven, we must be good.

So the mindset is – I must be good.

But the bible repeatedly points out the opposite.

[Rom 3:23 NKJV] 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

[Isa 53:5-6 NKJV] 5 But He [was] wounded for our transgressions, [He was] bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace [was] upon Him, And by His

stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Yes, we are sinners – but our past, present and future sins were placed on the shoulders of Jesus Christ as He died on the cross for you and me. The last portion of Isaiah 53:6 says the LORD (Yahweh) has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

You see, if we proclaim that we are good – what we are saying is that we don't have a need for a savior – therefore Jesus Christ did not need to die for you or me on the cross. It was all in vain.

But this is not the case church.

So, the rich young ruler had that mindset. He felt that he was good.

So Jesus begins to recite a few of the commandments. He chooses six of them.

And the reason that he chose these six is that they have to do with man's relationship with one another.

And the rich young ruler responds with – I have kept them all from the time I was a young child.

Now, Jesus does not dispute whether or not he was being truthful in keeping these six commandments – according to the way they were written.

And I say according to the way there were written because Jesus expounds on the meaning of the commandments in

the beatitudes where He states that if one simply lusts after another – then he or she is already guilty of adultery and if anyone hates his brother or sister – he or she is already guilty of murder.

–In other words, it goes to the heart, not just to actions.

So Jesus doesn't argue against his reply –

Let's look once again at Jesus' response in verse 21,

[Mar 10:21 NKJV] 21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

It says that Jesus looked at him and loved him.

That's the key to effective witnessing, Jesus witnessed in love. He genuinely loved this young rich man and had a burden for His soul.

All that we do in witnessing and anything else for the Lord should be compelled or driven by that same kind of love

He isn't saying it to be mean – Jesus is saying it because He wants the very best for the rich young ruler.

And Jesus reveals to him what he is lacking.

Jesus isn't saying that if the man sells his possessions he'll gain eternal life. He's telling this man what the requirements are for him to be a disciple, to be a follower of Jesus, to follow in the same path as Jesus.

And by doing this, Jesus was putting His finger on **this particular young man's problem**, the very thing that was keeping him from following Jesus.

You see, his money was his "god" because he was more willing to trust his money than God.

How do we know this?? Because of his response to what Jesus told him.

[Mar 10:22 NKJV] 22 But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Keep in mind that it was the rich young ruler that came to Jesus and bowed before him, he was the one that was searching for the thing that was lacking in his life.

And when Jesus reveals it to him – he doesn't like the solution.

That is way too high of a price to pay Jesus –

So he walked away.

We saw the same thing this past Wednesday night with Pharaoh - when Joseph reveals to Pharaoh the interpretation of the dream.

Unlike the rich young ruler, Pharaoh took the wise words to heart and he decided to act on the wisdom that was given to him.

You see, the rich young ruler was diligent in keeping six of the commandments – But he failed to keep commandment number 1 and number 2 –

You shall have no other gods before me

You shall not worship other gods

Turn with me to the Epistle of James

[Jas 2:10 NKJV] 10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one [point], he is guilty of all.

Now I want you to notice Jesus did not plead with the young man to accept salvation.

Jesus did not compromise and promise him health and wealth or lower the standard of God.

Jesus simply brought him to the mirror of God's word and let it bring recognition and conviction of sin.

Church, the question for us becomes, “Is there something in our lives that is holding us back from having that relationship with Him?”

It doesn't have to be possessions or money – it can be anything.

Are we reluctant to get rid of it because we feel it is too high of a price???

One of the most overlooked portion of this event is the seven words right after Jesus told him to sell everything.

And you will have treasure in heaven –

I don't even think the rich young ruler even heard those words – all he heard was **sell everything**.

23 Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" 24 And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God! 25 "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." 26 And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, "Who then can be saved?"

Once the rich young ruler leaves, Jesus continues to teach His disciples. Yet, they were amazed at what they had just seen and what they were hearing Jesus say.

You see, being rich and prosperous was viewed as a blessing from God.

So if the rich can't get into heaven, then who can???

But look at verse 24 again, because Jesus clearly says **those who trust in riches.**

Those who trust in riches are those who want to buy their way into heaven with good works.

And Jesus says it's impossible – by using the illustration that it will be easier for a camel to through the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

Jesus is using the two items that are at opposite ends of the spectrum. The camel was the biggest animal in the Middle

East during this time and the needle is in reference to a hand held needle used for sewing.

It's not going to happen.

27 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men [it is] impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

Jesus wants His disciples to disregard any idea that salvation is attainable through what man can do and He wants them to realize that salvation is only accessible through God. It is a gift!!!

28 Then Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You." 29 So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife

**or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, 30
"who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time--
houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and
children and lands, with persecutions--and in the age to
come, eternal life. 31 "But many [who are] first will be
last, and the last first."**

So in verse 28, Peter wants to remind Jesus that even though the rich young ruler walked away – he and the other disciples did what Jesus had told the rich young ruler.

For the most part, he is correct. Jesus' disciples did drop what they were doing when Jesus called them.

However, Peter misses the point – because Peter, like the rich young ruler, only focus on what he and the disciples lost to follow Jesus.

And Jesus proceeds to correct Peter into drawing his attention to what they have gained.

God will be a debtor to no man — and no one will give up the things of this earth in order to follow Jesus who won't be blessed abundantly.

In other words, when we get to heaven, we are not going to be moping around thinking that somehow we got cheated by God.

And what Jesus is doing is – He is encouraging His disciples as they make their way into Jerusalem. Because He knows that they will be persecuted by both the Jews and the Gentiles upon His death.

And the last thing that Jesus adds on verse 31, is that God's way and timing of rewarding may not match up with man's way and timing of being rewarded.

[Mar 10:32-52 NKJV] 32 Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him:

33 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles;

34 "and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."

Jesus and His disciples are now on their way to Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is elevated, so you are always described as “going up” to it, no matter which direction you approach from.

They were on their way there to celebrate Passover.

This is the third time that Jesus tells His disciples what is going to happen to Him.

And the difference this time around is that He is more specific about what is going to happen.

35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." 36 And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" 37 They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other

on Your left, in Your glory." 38 But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" 39 They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; 40 "but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but [it is for those] for whom it is prepared." 41 And when the ten heard [it], they began to be greatly displeased with James and John.

The gospel of Matthew tells us that the mother of James and John was the one that made the request to Jesus. It could

be that she made the request to Jesus first and then the two disciples decided to ask Jesus later on.

They are asking for Jesus to guarantee them the number one and number two spots in Jesus' government.

You see, the disciples thought that Jesus was going into Jerusalem to establish His kingdom.

That He was going to defeat the Romans then He would re-establish the throne of David & make Israel the most powerful nation on Earth.

But the disciples were wrong in their assumption because it was a cup of suffering that awaited Jesus in Jerusalem and not a throne.

I asked you to underline the portion in verse 39, where Jesus tells James and John that, You will indeed drink the that I drink – because this James is the one that is killed in the book of Acts by Herod. And John – even though he was the only disciple that didn't suffer a gruesome death – he did endure great suffering and persecution.

Now, in verse 41, the other disciples are mad at James and John – but they were thinking the same thing. Remember, they kept arguing among themselves who was the greatest. James and John simply beat them in making the request to Jesus.

42 But Jesus called them to [Himself] and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones

exercise authority over them. 43 "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. 44 "And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. 45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Since it appears that the disciples have been preoccupied with greatness – Jesus tells them that what the world considers great is not what He considers great.

Those in the world that have leadership and power, they spend their time ruling over people.

Those who are leaders in the church are supposed to lead by serving.

Jesus wants to make sure that His disciples understand true leadership is not defined by the world.

46 Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. 47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 48 Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 49 So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you." 50 And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus. 51 So Jesus answered and said to

him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight."

52 Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

The healing of Bartimaeus is the last miracle that is recorded in the gospel of Mark.

Next week we will see Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem as we draw closer to His death.

We know that it was the grace & power of God that healed Bartimaeus, but Jesus said it was His faith that made him well.

It was Bart's understanding that Jesus was the solution to his problem, the answer to his question, the vision of his

eyes, that enabled the power of God to flow into Him & restore his sight.

In the same way, it's faith in Jesus that makes the connection between us & God.

Notice that as soon as Bartimaeus could see, he began to follow Jesus.

And that's what happens to all who are truly enlightened; they walk in the Light of the World.

Amen.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

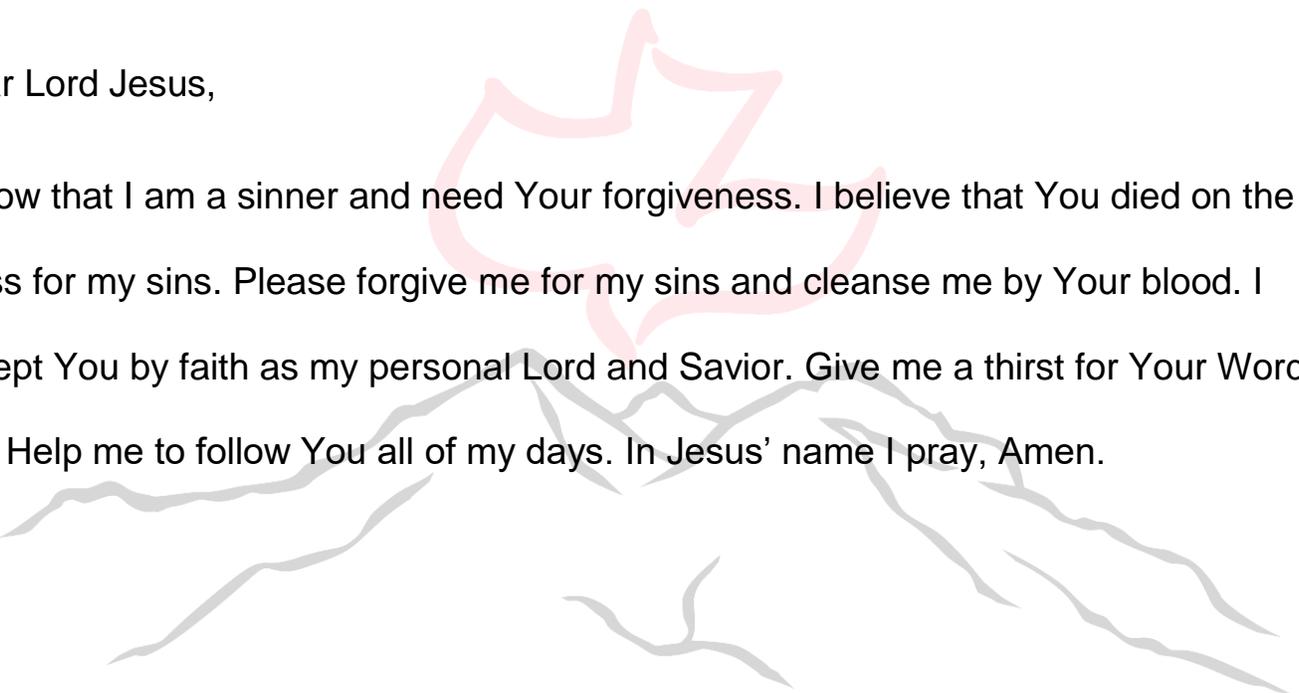
Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.



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