

Gospel Price or Prize?

(The Rich Young Ruler)

Mark 10:17-31

Intro: **VIDEO: Jesus & the rich young ruler**

Mark 10:17 *...as He was setting out on his journey, a man (a rich young ruler) ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what (good deed) must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

NOTE: This is a REALLY GOOD GUY.....

...a great CHURCH-going, Bible-carrying, R-leader..

EVEN MORE: His ACTIONS appear awesome:

1. He RUNS to Jesus...
2. He KNEELS at Jesus' feet...
3. He ASKS Jesus for answers...
4. He ACKNOWLEDGES J's authority...
5. He's sincerely SEEKING eternal life!

NOTE: He is asking Jesus: WHAT PRICE MUST I PAY?

"What GOOD DEED must I DO?"

IMPLICATIONS:

- A. Assumes eternal life is EARNED... "works salvation"
- B. Assumes he has the power needed to get it done...

KEY: He has SINCERELY come... showing ZEAL & RESPECT for Jesus... as a PILLAR in the COMMUNITY... thought to be amongst the BEST of the BEST, with a RESUME to back it up... He came READY, WILLING, & "ABLE" to SIGN a LONG TERM CONTRACT with God... to LOCK in his WELL DESERVED spot in HEAVEN...

BOTTOM LINE: He's ready to "PAY the PRICE" for eternal life.

So what do you do with a guy like this???

You sign him up... RIGHT?

WRONG! - You check his heart...

T/S: But pay close attention to how Jesus drills down into the heart!

18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.

Jesus is reminding him (and everyone else)...

that ONLY God is good...

So as to imply the question:

Are you acknowledging that I AM God?

(The man will answer the question momentarily...)

T/S: Jesus continues..... revealing his sin & self-righteousness

19 *You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'"*

NOTE: Jesus only references the "inter-personal" commands

WHY?

Because "religious" people feel pretty good about themselves when they focus on the horizontal aspects of life...

20 *And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth."*

NOTICE: Our "good" community pillar proves to be a LIAR!

NOTICE: People grade themselves on a curve... vs. Christ.

NOTICE: **His lying clearly denies Jesus as LORD...**

If you think you can fool Him... you don't think He's God.

He's willing to GO TO CHURCH...

But NOT willing to COME TO CHRIST!

Like many in churches today, this man's a Christian Atheist...

He "believes" in God but lives as though He doesn't exist!

21 *And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."*

Jesus:

1. Jesus looked at him and could SEE right THRU him
2. Jesus LOVED him!
3. Jesus demonstrated His love by TELLING him TRUTH

KEY: Jesus said: **"...You lack one thing..."**

- a. Was he lacking PHILANTHROPY?
- b. Was he lacking POVERTY?

NO! This passage is NOT about money...

It's about the MESSIAH!

...NOT about greed... its about God!

KEY: Neither poverty nor philanthropy produce treasure in heaven....

So..... what did Jesus mean?

Neither poverty nor philanthropy produce treasure in heaven...

Only God-honoring, Spirit-empowered passion for the Prince and purity of the Gospel, lived out by faith... in this fallen world... will add to a Christian's eternal treasure in heaven.

NOTE: Jesus demands that he willingly leave ALL behind...

NOTE: Jesus demands he COME (leave comfort & come)

NOTE: Jesus demands that he FOLLOW (1 John 2:6)

BOTTOM LINE: Jesus could see this man's god...

Jesus could see this man's idol...

Jesus could see this man's excuse...

Jesus could see this man's DAMNING SIN!

And HE INVITED HIM to SAVING GRACE!

Truth in Love = language of eternal life...

Lies & Compromise = language of the forever fires of hell!

T/S: The Son of God has spoken... What does this "good man" do?

22 *Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.*

KEY TERMS:

1. Disheartened – **TRUE Christians are no more “disheartened” by God’s transformational “trades” --- than would one be when asked to give up tiny bits of coal in exchange for countless carats of diamonds**
2. “went away” - **TRUE Christians don’t walk away.**
Christians stumble...
but they do not deny Christ.
3. “sorrowful” - TRUE Christians do not see...
a Gospel Price...
but a Gospel Prize!
4. “great possessions” - **What are you holding on to?**
 - a. Your life will answer louder than your lips
 - b. What do your time, talent, treasure say?
 - c. Who/what hinder your faithful obedience

VIDEO: “Modern Rich Young Ruler”

Read Hebrews 12:1-2

T/S: Jesus now turns and teaches His disciples/Church...

NOTE: Jesus did not chase the man as he walked away...

23 And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" **24** And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them **again**, "Children, how difficult it is 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 person to enter the kingdom of God." **26** And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" **27** Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."

For you have been saved by grace thru faith, not of works, lest any man should boast...

28 Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you."

Notice the difference between Peter & the Rich Ruler...

29 Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, **30** who will 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."

T/S: Its not the Gospel PRICE... It's the Gospel PRIZE!

Closing take-aways:

1. “Good guys” and “devote church-men” go to hell... only biblical Christians have eternal life.
2. Christ-like love... tells this gospel truth with both passion & compassion.
3. Those who say “No. Lord,” by definition... have NO Lord... & No Savior!
4. Salvation is a miraculous gift of grace, unattainable for ANY human being.
5. Don’t miss Christ’s incredible LOVE for the Church in all this...

VIDEO: “The Church”