

True Riches

Mark 10:17-27

- A. This portion of scripture contains a man known as the rich young ruler. I want to submit to you that this man was outwardly rich and successful in the eyes of all around him except Jesus. Jesus saw his poverty and lack and offered him true riches. Like many, he clutched tightly to his possessions and lost sight of the true treasure, Jesus the Son of God.
- B. This man was a poor young slave. His poverty was a result of wrong priorities.
- C. What qualifies wealth is not the physical or natural, but your heart before God and your response to His Son. [Luke 12:13-21]

*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?**”*

- A. This man’s initially had the right approach- to run and kneel- but inwardly an issue was in his heart.
- B. In those days, for an influential man to run was unheard of and outside of the norm. This indicates there was a desire for Jesus that was greater than his desire for his reputation. However, this was not sustained and maintained.
- C. His desire was for eternal life-yet we will see later in the passage that you cannot get eternal life by keeping the commandments with a divided dead heart. It is found in the one thing lifestyle.
- D. Eternal life is defined in John 17:3, “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” Eternal life is found solely in the knowledge of God and connection to His heart. We think a prayer, or a life of good works equals eternal life [heaven] however Jesus defines eternity by our hearts knowledge of His heart.
 - a. We must purpose to pursue this with our all. We must gain this above all else. If we lose this we lose all, if we gain this we gain all.
 - b. Proverbs 2 gives us insight into the pathway this requires
 - c. **Forgiveness is free; the deep things of God are costly and require all our hearts focus and devotion.**
 - d. We must forsake our religious inclinations and throw ourselves into the depth of God’s heart.

E. Verse 18-20 Jesus highlights the portions of the law that were horizontal in nature- meaning dealing with how he dealt with humanity. Jesus set him up to feel the bareness of his heart before God.

*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.*

A. Jesus looked at this man with compassion and love and identified the issue- he had a divided love in his heart.

B. **One thing vs. many things:** it seems that this is a theme throughout scripture that the Lord truly is not looking for us to do the many things [religious duties, good works, morality] but is looking primarily for a loving response of brokenness and desire.

- a. Matthew 22:34-40- first and great commandment love Him
- b. Psalm 24:7- one thing I have desired
- c. Luke 10:38-42: Mary and Martha, one thing she has chosen
- d. Phil 3:7-14- the one thing I do
- e. Rev 2:4- the one thing I have against you

C. **Jesus called this man to abandon his fool’s gold and possess true riches.** [sell what you have and follow Me]

D. **How many of us are leaving tonight still holding onto our possessions rather than following Jesus**

E. **How many of us run to Jesus for forgiveness yet leave when He places a demand upon our lives? He doesn’t want a formal relationship at a distance; He wants to be supreme in our lives and hearts giving us all that He died for.**

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.”

A. We must rightly understand that Jesus is not opposed to riches, wealth or money. The principle of this encounter was to show us the folly of trusting in something outside of Christ. Our position, power, money, abilities and talents can all be our own “riches” that we trust in outside of Christ.

- B. Some of the hardest people to reach are those who are “successful” in the eyes of the world. They fall into the deception that outward success is equal to inward success, therefore they resist the message that they are poor and in need.
- C. **Riches:** [ploutos] wealth, possessions, money, abundance, full
- a. The key to understanding the danger of riches is what they do to our hearts/spirit. They make us full or blind to our need.
 - b. If we believe we are full, we have no need and no desire for the true riches found solely in Christ
 - c. Proverbs 27:7- a satisfied soul loathes the honey but to the hungry even the bitter is sweet.
- D. **Matthew 5:3-6** lays out values of the kingdom of God- **poor in spirit, mourning and hunger and thirst.** If we are “full” then we will surely never enter the kingdom, because this is the avenue in. Those who are poor in spirit will enter the kingdom, the ones who discern their need and desire the provision of God.
- E. The deceiving message of “riches” is they are the avenue to happiness, satisfaction, pleasure etc, therefore we resist the true entry point into all of these things. They are essentially opposite of the kingdom and lead us into destruction
- a. 1 Timothy 6:9
 - b. Matthew 13:22
 - c. Luke 6:20-21, 25
- F. **A heart that is without hunger is a heart that is satisfied with other things and cannot see Christ nor its need before Him. The solution is not works or religious duties, it is eyes to see. We need sight and revelation of Jesus and our hearts. This is why Paul continued to pray this and Jesus always emphasized it.**

²⁶ And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, “Who then can be saved?” ²⁷ But Jesus looked at them and said, “With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.”

- A. The disciples were shocked that the person society esteemed could not enter into the kingdom. Therefore they posed the question- who can be saved?
- B. Jesus response is amazing and humbling. He indicates that we cannot change our own heart or the desires of our heart. We need the influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives to bring transformation to our lives, called salvation.

- C. Salvation is not a prayer, but an altered heart and a love and passion for Christ. It is not good works, but a priority and value for Christ. He becomes your treasure that you forsake all to have.
- D. **2 Cor 3:18**- we are transformed as the Lord opens our eyes to the glory of Jesus and the beauty of this man, leading us to dive deeper into His heart and give more and more.
- E. **We must begin to cry out for the Ephesians 1:17-19 reality in our lives. Open our eyes and strike our hearts with the knowledge of God. Change us as we behold You God!**