

The Gospel - 3 - The Rich man

Sunday, July 28 2019

#Sermons/Preached

#Sermons/T-ShirtOutreach

Introduction

T-Shirt

Over the past couple of weeks, I've preached a couple of messages about the Gospel!

- This is part of our preparation to wear T-Shirts telling people to *Ask me about Jesus*.
- On Wednesday evenings, we're preparing to share the Gospel and our testimony
- Here on Sunday mornings - I've been sharing about the Gospel message itself

Message today: Case study

Today I want to look at the Gospel once again - this time by examining the presentation of the Gospel from Jesus to the rich young ruler.

Open your bibles to Mark 10, and follow along as we read the story together, then come back and make a couple of points about *The Gospel*

The story

****17a** *And as he was setting out on his journey,***

If you remember from our study of Mark - Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem to die!

He's already warned his disciples (a couple times) this was going to happen - and right after this passage, he does so again. See [Mark 10:32-34](#) (ESV) (32) *And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, (33) saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. (34) And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise."*

Point: This question about eternal life is asked as Jesus is on his way to offer a new way

to inherit eternal life!

****17b** *a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"***

Jesus' progress is interrupted by this man and his question. Let's learn some things about him - based on his question

He respected Jesus

This man respected Jesus. See how he kneels before Him. This was a show of deep respect.

See how he addresses him as *Good teacher* - he's heard of Jesus and respects him as a person, and trusts him with such an important question

He believes there's a possibility of *eternal life*

- His question is *how can I inherit eternal life* - meaning he believed such a thing is possible.
- Even though YOLO is something we try to embrace as fallen humans - deep within us, there's a belief that something lies beyond the grave. See [Ecc 3:11 \(ESV\) \(11\)](#) *He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.*
- One of the big questions we all grapple with is *what happens when I die*
- This man comes to Jesus with that question - which makes one assume ... 1) he believes in eternal life and 2) he's not sure he's going to get there

That he can do something to get there

- His question assumes there's something he can do to influence his eternal destination
- *What must I do* - if we believe in a hereafter, then we want to know what I can do to get there!
- He comes to someone he respects and asks this question!

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

- Jesus doesn't even answer the man's question at first
- Instead he attempts to clarify the man's understand about who is good!
- The man bows before Jesus - recognizing he was *better than* or *more righteous* than himself - and asks him about eternal life

- The man assumes Jesus is good - if anyone knows what it takes - Jesus is that man
- His entire assumption is wrong! There is no *good man*
- Jesus is trying to correct that assumption! Consider **Rom 3:9-12** (ESV) (9) *What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, (10) as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; (11) no one understands; no one seeks for God. (12) All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."* - **There is no one good!**
- **Point:** When we share the Gospel - we will see this misconception - people think they're ok! Before the Gospel can be received - they must know they're not!

****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.**"**

- Jesus isn't trying to scold the man or lecture him
- In fact, his motive is addressed a little later on: Jesus loved him
- Instead he's answering the man's question: How can I inherit eternal life? Keep the commandments!
- See Matthew's record: **Matt 19:17** *...If you would enter life, keep the commandments.*
- Eternal life is for those who obey the law!

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

- Here's the problem with our wicked, deceptive hearts. We think we're good enough
- We measure ourselves against the wrong things! We look at others, or we interpret the commands in a way beneficial to us!
- That's what Jesus was trying to do in the sermon on the mount - expand our understanding of the commandments
- Consider for example: **Matt 5:27-28** (ESV) (27) *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' (28) But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*
- We will never look for a savior until we know we need one!
- **Illustrate:** The man walking down the street - seemed clearly intoxicated. Was kneeling down on the sidewalk - trying to get his bearings. I went out and ask him if he needed help, his reply *I'm ok* and he struggled up and stumbled down the street

****21a** *And Jesus, looking at him, loved him,***

- I love the inclusion of this phase: Jesus looked at him and loved him
- Jesus loves this man! He was on his way to Jerusalem to die for this man

- This entire interaction is because Jesus loves him **and doesn't want him to go to hell**
- All he has done is try to show the man his approach is failing. He corrects the man's assumptions on *good*, he reiterates the requirements of the law... he's even going to call the man to follow him

****21b**** *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."*

So we come to this last demand made **Note:** this is not a doctrine - i.e. one doesn't need to sell everything and give to the poor

Instead - this is a test of faith.

- Sell everything... put your faith in me to take care of you
- Follow me ... put your faith in me to lead you to eternal life
- Do this... trust that I know what I'm talking about.

When we read this story in Matthew 19:21 we read **Matt 19:21** (ESV) (21) *Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go ..."*

Paraphrasing *If you want to be perfect... you have to trust me!" And faith (trust) is measured by what you do - sell everything and follow me!

We can have all the external righteousness piled up - but eternal life can only be gained by trusting Jesus. Following him. Letting him lead you where he wants you to go. Placing under his control everything we are, and everything we have!

Note: This **IS** doctrine!

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

Here we'll end our story. When the man hears Jesus answer... his complete answer, he is forced with a choice: Do I trust this man to lead me in to life eternal, or can I figure out how to get there on my own!

This man walked away... sad... because the path to heaven was not what he wanted/ expected it to be.

He came to Jesus, asking about eternal life - prepared to believe Jesus as long as He affirmed the man *measured up*, or asked him to do something within his power to do!

Application

Let's step back from the story and make some application this morning

What about us?

- This man came to Jesus seeking eternal life. His answer was two-fold: Be perfect according to the law, or trust me! The man thought he was perfect, but Jesus exposed that misconception
- **Truth** No one is perfect according to the law. Only Jesus - who was born of a virgin, not inheriting a sin nature, and lived perfect - never yielding to the temptation to sin.
- Consider: **Rom 3:20** (ESV) (20) *For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.*
- Fortunately there is a way to be righteous apart from the law. That is by trusting Jesus! Consider **Rom 3:21-22** (ESV) (21) *But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it--* (22) *the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:*
- Jesus has made clear the path of righteousness. Consider **Rom 10:9-10** (ESV) (9) *because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. Do we **1)** Trust in the sacrificial, atoning death of Jesus for our sins and will we **2)** follow him, Trusting him to care for us here and into eternity*
- Too often people are seeking to establish their own righteousness - because they don't like the terms of Jesus' offer. But he alone is the *way, the truth and the life* - *no one comes to the Father except through him.*
- **Ask:** Are we placing everything in His hands? What do we love more than him?

See his interaction with the sinner

This message today is the third in a series about the Gospel - and specifically about sharing the Gospel. I want to consider Jesus' interaction with the man and learn a couple of things

1. Jesus loved him. Everything Jesus does in this passage flows from His love for the sinner. His goal is to see this man have eternal life! Do we love the sinner? Is that what

motivates us to reach out?

2. Jesus allowed the law to speak for itself - ie. He didn't condemn the sinner, just exposed his isn. I find this very interesting. He knew everything about the man and could have pointed out each failure. Instead - he simply allowed the law (and the man's love of money) to be exposed.
3. Jesus allowed him to walk away. This is hard one, but God won't force anyone to receive the gift of salvation. This man chose to continue to seek eternal life on his own terms. Our job is to present the Gospel - but we cannot force anyone to accept it!