



SUNDAY CLASS

7/26/09

Matthew 19:16-22 (New International Version)

The Rich Young Man

Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments." "Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, " 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.



The Rich Young Man and Jesus

Matthew 19:16 (New International Version)

The Rich Young Man

16Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

Mark 10:17-30 (New International Version)

The Rich Young Man

*17*As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*18*"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone."*19*You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'*20*"Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."*21*Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."*22*At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.*23*Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"*24*The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is^[b] 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*The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"*27*Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."*28*Peter said to him, "We have left everything to follow you!"*29*"I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel *30*will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.

"Here is an account of what passed between Christ and a hopeful young gentleman that addressed himself to him upon a serious errand; he said to be a young man (v. 20); and I called him a gentleman, not only because he had great possessions, but because he was a ruler (Luke 18:18), a magistrate, a justice of peace in his country; it is probable that he had abilities beyond his years, else his youth would have debarred him from the magistracy. Now concerning this young gentleman, we are told how fair he bid for heaven and came short."

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Luke 18:18 (New International Version)

The Rich Ruler

18 A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"The gentleman's serious address to Jesus Christ (v. 16); Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? Not a better question could be asked, not more gravely.

******Note, Jesus Christ is a good Master, the best of teachers; none teaches like him; he is distinguished for his goodness, for he can have compassion on the ignorant; he is meek and lowly in heart.***

He comes to him upon an errand of importance (none could be more so), and he came not to tempt him, but sincerely desiring to be taught by him. His question is, What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? By this it appears,

*[1.] That **he had a firm belief of eternal life**; he was no Sadducee. He was convinced that there is a happiness prepared for those in the other world, who are prepared for it in this world.*

*[2.] That **he was concerned to make it sure to himself that he should live eternally**, and was desirous of that life more than any of the delights of this life. It was a rare thing for one of his age and quality to appear so much in care about another world. The rich are apt to think it below them to make such an enquiry as this; and young people think it time enough yet; but here was a young man, and a rich man, solicitous about his soul and eternity.*

*[3.] That **he was sensible something must be done, some good thing, for the attainment of this happiness**. It is by patient continuance in well-doing that we seek for immortality, Romans 2:7. We must be doing, and doing that which is good. The blood of Christ is the only purchase of eternal life (he merited it for us), but obedience to Christ is the appointed way to it, Hebrews 5:9.*

Romans 2:7 (New International Version)

7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

Hebrews 5:9 (New International Version)

⁹and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

[4.] That he was, or at least thought himself, willing to do what was to be done for the obtaining of this eternal life. Those that know what it is to have eternal life, and what it is to come short of it, will be glad to accept of it upon any terms. **Such a holy violence does the kingdom of heaven suffer.**

*****Note, While there are many that say, Who will show us any good? Our great enquiry should be, What shall we do, that we may have eternal life? What shall we do, to be for ever happy, happy in another world? For this world has not that in it that will make us happy. "**

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Luke 10:25-28 (New International Version)

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" ²⁷He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" ²⁸"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

Luke 18:18-30 (New International Version)

The Rich Ruler

¹⁸A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁹"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. ²⁰You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'²¹"All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said. ²²When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."²³When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth. ²⁴Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!²⁵Indeed, 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."²⁶Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?"²⁷Jesus replied, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."²⁸Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!"²⁹"I tell you the truth," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom

of God³⁰ will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life."

Mark 10:17 (New International Version)

The Rich Young Man

¹⁷As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

John 12:25 (New International Version)

²⁵The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Acts 13:48 (New International Version)

⁴⁸When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

Matthew 19:17 (New International Version)

¹⁷"Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments."

"The encouragement that Jesus Christ gave to this address. It is not his manner to send any away without an answer, that come to him on such an errand, for nothing pleases him more, v. 17.

*****Note, As Christ is graciously ready to make the best that he can of what is said or done amiss; so he is ready to make the most that can be of what is well said and well done.**

*****Note, God only is good, and there is none essentially, originally, and unchangeably, good, but God only.**

His goodness is of and from himself, and all the goodness in the creature is from him; **he is the Fountain of goodness**, and whatever the streams are, all the springs are in him, James 1:17.

James 1:17 (New International Version)

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows,"

He is the great Pattern and Sample of goodness; by him all goodness is to be measured; that is good which is like him, and agreeable to his mind. We in our language call him God, because he is good.

*In this, as in other things, **our Lord Jesus was the Brightness of his glory** (and his goodness is his glory), and the express image of his person, and therefore fitly called good Master."*

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Leviticus 18:5 (New International Version)

⁵ Keep my decrees and laws, for the man who obeys them will live by them. I am the LORD.

Nehemiah 9:29 (New International Version)

²⁹ *"You warned them to return to your law, but they became arrogant and disobeyed your commands. They sinned against your ordinances, by which a man will live if he obeys them. Stubbornly they turned their backs on you, became stiff-necked and refused to listen.*

Ezekiel 20:21 (New International Version)

²¹ *"But the children rebelled against me: They did not follow my decrees, they were not careful to keep my laws—although the man who obeys them will live by them—and they desecrated my Sabbaths. So I said I would pour out my wrath on them and spend my anger against them in the desert.*

*"The end proposed is, entering into life. The young man, in his question, **spoke of eternal life**. Christ, in his answer, **speaks of life; to teach us, that eternal life is the only true life**. The words concerning that are the words of this life, Acts 5:20.*

Acts 5:20 (New International Version)

²⁰***"Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life."***

The present life scarcely deserves the name of life, for in the midst of life we are in death.

Or into life, that spiritual life which is the beginning and earnest of eternal life. He desired to know how he might have eternal life; Christ tells him how he might enter into it; we have it by the merit of Christ, a mystery which was not as yet fully revealed, and therefore Christ waives that; but the way of entering into it, is, by obedience, and Christ directs us in that. By the former we make our title, by this, as by our evidence, we prove it; it is by adding to faith virtue, that an entrance (the word here used) is ministered to us into the everlasting kingdom, 2 Peter 1:5,11.

2 Peter 1:5 (New International Version)

⁵For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

2 Peter 1:11 (New International Version)

¹¹and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Christ, who is our Life, **is the Way to the Father**, and to the vision and fruition of him; **he is the only Way**, but duty, and **the obedience of faith, are the way to Christ.**"*

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE



"There is an entrance into life hereafter, at death, at the great day, a complete entrance, and those only shall then enter into life, that do their duty; it is the diligent faithful servant that shall then enter into the joy of his Lord, and that joy will be his eternal life. There is an entrance into life now; we who have believed, do enter into rest, Hebrews 4."

Hebrews 4 (New International Version)

A Sabbath-Rest for the People of God

¹Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.²For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.³Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world.⁴For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "And on the seventh day God rested from all his work."⁵And again in the passage above he says, "They shall never enter my rest."⁶It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience.⁷Therefore God again set a certain day, calling it Today, when a long time later he spoke through David, as was said before: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."⁸For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day.⁹There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God;¹⁰for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.¹¹Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

¹²For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Jesus the Great High Priest

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.¹⁶Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

*****Note, We have peace, and comfort, and joy, in the believing prospect of the glory to be revealed, and to this also sincere obedience is indispensably necessary.**

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Matthew 19:18 (New International Version)

18 "Which ones?" the man inquired.

Exodus 20:13-16 (New International Version)

13 "You shall not murder.

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

15 "You shall not steal.

16 "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Deuteronomy 5:17-20 (New International Version)

17 "You shall not murder.

18 "You shall not commit adultery.

19 "You shall not steal.

20 "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor

"The way prescribed is, keeping the commandments.

*****Note, Keeping the commandments of God, according as they are revealed and made known to us, is the only way to life and salvation; and sincerity herein is accepted through Christ as our gospel perfection, provision being made of pardon, upon repentance, wherein we come short.**

Through Christ **we are delivered from the condemning power of the law**, but the commanding power of it is lodged in the hand of the Mediator, and under that, in that hand, we still are under the law to Christ (1 Corinthians 9:21), under it as a rule, though not as a covenant.

1 Corinthians 9:21 (New International Version)

²¹To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.

Keeping the commandments *includes* faith in Jesus Christ, *for that is the great commandment (1 John 3:23), and it was one of the laws of Moses, that, when the great Prophet should be raised up, they should hear him.*

1 John 3:23 (New International Version)

²³And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

******Note, In order to our happiness here and forever, it is not enough for us to know the commandments of God, but we must keep them, keep in them as our way, keep to them as our rule, keep them as our treasure, and with care, as the apple of our eye. "***

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Matthew 19:19 (New International Version)

***19*Jesus replied, " 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, ¹⁹honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"**

Matthew 19:20 (New International Version)

²⁰"All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"

"In answer to this, Christ specifies several, especially the commandments of the second table.

First, *That which concerns our own and our neighbor's life; Thou shalt do no murder.*

Secondly, *Our own and our neighbor's chastity, which should be as dear to us as life itself; Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

Thirdly, *Our own and our neighbor's wealth and outward estate, as hedged about by the law of property; Thou shalt not steal.*

Fourthly, *That which concerns truth, and our own and our neighbor's good name; Thou shalt not bear false witness, neither for thyself, nor against thy neighbor; for so it is here left at large.*

Fifthly, *That which concerns the duties of particular relations; Honor thy father and mother.*

Sixthly, *That comprehensive law of love, which is the spring and summary of all these duties, whence they all flow, on which they are all founded, and in which they are all fulfilled; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself (Galatians 5:14; Romans 13:9), that royal law, James 2:8.*

Galatians 5:14 (New International Version)

¹⁴The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Romans 13:9 (New International Version)

⁹The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

James 2:8 (New International Version)

⁸If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.

*Some think this comes in here, not as the sum of the second table, but as the particular import of the tenth commandment; Thou shalt not covet, which Mark is, **Defraud not; intimating that it is not lawful for me to design advantage or gain to myself by the diminution or loss of another; for that is to covet, and to love myself better than my neighbor, whom I ought to love as myself, and to treat as I would myself be treated.***

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Exodus 20:12 (New International Version)

¹² "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Leviticus 19:18 (New International Version)

18 "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

Deuteronomy 5:16 (New International Version)

16 "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Matthew 5:43 (New International Version)

Love for Enemies

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor^[a] and hate your enemy.'

Matthew 22:39 (New International Version)

39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Galatians 5:14 (New International Version)

14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

James 2:8 (New International Version)

8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself,"^[a] you are doing right.

Exodus 20:12-16 (New International Version)

12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

13 "You shall not murder.

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

15 "You shall not steal.

16 "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Deuteronomy 5:16-20 (New International Version)

¹⁶ "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁷ "You shall not murder.

¹⁸ "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁹ "You shall not steal.

²⁰ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

"See here how he came short, though he bid thus fair, and wherein he failed; he failed by two things.

1. By pride, and a vain conceit of his own merit and strength; this is the ruin of thousands, who keep themselves miserable by fancying themselves happy. When Christ told him what commandments he must keep, he answered very scornfully, All these things have I kept from my youth up, v. 20.

(1.) According as he understood the law, as prohibiting only the outward acts of sin, I am apt to think that he said true, and Christ knew it, for he did not contradict him; nay, it is said in Mark, He loved him; so far was very good and pleasing to Christ. St. Paul reckons it a privilege, not contemptible in itself, though it was dross in comparison with Christ, that he was, as touching righteousness that is in the law, blameless, *Philippians*. 3:6.

Philippians 3:6 (New International Version)

⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

His observance of these commands was universal; All these have I kept: it was early and constant; from my youth up.

*****Note, A man may be free from gross sin, and yet come short of grace and glory.**

His hands may be clean from external pollutions, and yet he may perish eternally in his heart-wickedness. What shall we think then of those who do not attain to this; whose fraud and injustice, drunkenness and uncleanness, witness against them, that all these they have broken from their youth up, though they have named the name of Christ? Well, it is sad to come short of those that come short of heaven. It was commendable also, that he desired to know further what his duty was; What lack I yet? He was convinced that

he wanted something to fill up his works before God, and was therefore desirous to know it, because, if he was not mistaken in himself, he was willing to do it. Having not yet attained, he thus seemed to press forward. And he applied himself to Christ, whose doctrine was supposed to improve and perfect the Mosaic institution. He desired to know what were the peculiar precepts of his religion, that he might have all that was in them to polish and accomplish him. Who could bid fairer?"

*****Note, Even in this that he said, he discovered his ignorance and folly.*****

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Matthew 19:21-22 (New International Version)

²¹Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

²²When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

"Take it how you will, what he said savored of pride and vain-glory, and had in it too much of that boasting **which is excluded by the law of faith** (Romans 3:27), and **which excludes from justification**, Luke 18:11,14.

Romans 3:27 (New International Version)

²⁷Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith.

Luke 18:11 (New International Version)

¹¹The Pharisee stood up and prayed about^[a] himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.

Luke 18:14 (New International Version)

¹⁴"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

"**He valued himself too much**, as the Pharisees did, upon the plausibleness of his profession before men, and was proud of that, which spoiled the acceptableness of it. That word, What lack I yet? perhaps was not so much a desire of further instruction as a demand

of the praise of his present fancied perfection, and **a challenge to Christ himself to show him any one instance wherein he was deficient.**"

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Luke 12:33 (New International Version)

³³*Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.*

Luke 16:9 (New International Version)

⁹*I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.*

Acts 2:45 (New International Version)

⁴⁵*Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.*

Acts 4:35 (New International Version)

³⁵*and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.*

"What Christ said to him, he thus far said to us all, that, if we would approve ourselves Christians indeed, and would be found at last the heirs of eternal life, **we must do these two things:**

We must practically prefer the heavenly treasures before all the wealth and riches in this world. That glory must have the pre-eminence in our judgment and esteem before this glory.

No thanks to us to prefer heaven before hell, the worst man in the world would be glad of that Jerusalem for a refuge when he can stay no longer here, and to have it in reserve; but to make it our choice, and to prefer it before this earth—that is to be a Christian indeed.

Now, as an evidence of this,

First, *We must dispose of what we have in this world, for the honor of God, and in his service: "Sell that thou hast, and give to the poor. If the occasions of charity be very pressing, sell thy possessions that thou may have to give to them that need; as the first Christians did, with an eye to this precept, Acts 4:34.*

Acts 4:34 (New International Version)

***34* There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales**

Sell what thou canst spare for pious uses, all thy superfluities; if thou canst not otherwise do good with it, sell it. Sit loose to it, be willing to part with it for the honor of God, and the relief of the poor." A gracious contempt of the world, and compassion of the poor and afflicted ones in it, are in all a necessary condition of salvation; and in those that have wherewithal, giving of alms is as necessary an evidence of that contempt of the world, and compassion to our brethren; by this the trial will be at the great day, Matthew 25:35.

Matthew 25:35 (New International Version)

***35* For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,**

Though many that call themselves Christians, do not act as if they believed it; it is certain, that, when we embrace Christ, we must let go the world, for we cannot serve God and mammon. Christ knew that covetousness was the sin that did most easily beset this young man, that, though what he had he had got honestly, yet he could not cheerfully part with it, and by this he discovered his insincerity. This command was like the call to Abraham, Get thee out of thy country, to a land that I will show thee. As God tries believers by their strongest graces, so hypocrites by their strongest corruptions.

Secondly, We must depend upon what we hope for in the other world as an abundant recompence for all we have left, or lost, or laid out, for God in this world; Thou shalt have treasure in heaven. We must, in the way of chargeable duty, trust God for a happiness out of sight, which will make us rich amends for all our expenses in God's service.

The precept sounded hard and harsh; "Sell that thou hast, and give it away;" and the objection against it would soon arise, that "Charity begins at home;" therefore Christ immediately annexes this assurance of a treasure in heaven."

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

1 Timothy 6:18 (New International Version)

18 ***Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.***

