

Introduction

1. Read 17-22. This story always bothered me. Seems Jesus badly mishandled young man.
 - a. Criticizes opening question. Not present simple gospel. Seems adds works to salv.
 - b. Makes almost impossible demand – sell everything & give it to the poor.
 - c. Lets him leave w/o any attempt to win back. Criticizes to disciples after he leaves.
 2. All of this contrasts with what appears to be a likeable guy.
 - a. Young man w/good manners. Wealthy, but apparently very generous.
 - b. Obviously clean-cut kid w/high moral standards. Vry interested in spiritual matters.
 3. Why does Jesus seem discourage him? Jesus better student of human nature than us.
 - a. We see only the surface; Jesus saw his heart.
 - b. This man's likeable surface concealed some serious problems underneath.
 - c. Friend of mine bought home w/nice basement. One day under panel found huge crack.
 - d. Spent lots of money to repair basement. Nice surface can hide a flawed interior.
 4. Man had serious, spiritual problems kept him from eternal life. (Give Title & Text.)
- I. **V. 17: Asked Wrong Question. Problem 1, Wrong view of salvation.**
- A. Meaning Of Do.
1. *Do = actions one undertakes that cause, bring about or accomplish something.*¹
 2. That he could earn eternal life by his good deeds. Good guys vs. bad guys view.
 3. Hoping Jesus prescribe some generous deed could do to show his goodness.
- B. Many People Same Problem
1. Lady facing serious surgery afraid to die. *Think go to heaven; been pretty good person.*
 2. Never heard it that directly before. *What can I DO to inherit eternal life?*
 3. That lady survived the surgery & later came to a true assurance of eternal life.
 4. Yrs later when she did die, no confusion about how we receive eternal life.
- II. **V. 18: Used Wrong Word. Problem 2, Wrong view of God.**
- A. Jesus' Quick Response.
1. Not denying His own goodness. This is a veiled claim by Jesus to His own deity.
 2. Jesus taking man's attention off self & putting it on God.
 3. People think good enough earn salvation have low view of God.
 4. They need to see themselves next to God's perfect character.
 5. In Jesus' day it was virtually unheard of to call someone good.
 - a. We do all the time – good person, neighbors, guy, kid, etc.
 - b. In O.T. "good" was customarily used only for God.
 - c. *Good = inner worth, especially moral worth;*² moral perfection of God's character.
 6. When we see ourselves next to God, we see how far short we fall.
- B. Jumping Contest Illustration

¹ Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., & Bauer, W. (2000). *A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature* (3rd ed.), p. 839. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

² Arndt, W., Gingrich, F. W., Danker, F. W., & Bauer, W. (1979). *A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian*, p. 3. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

1. Suppose we had a jumping contest on the stage. 4 youth today. See who highest.
 - a. Now, let me tell you the goal. You see that fan above me. That's the goal.
 - b. I don't care who can jump highest, how many will reach the goal?
2. Human goodness is like that?
 - a. When we compare ourselves to others, we may feel closer to God.
 - b. But when we compare ourselves w/God, we all miss the goal by a long shot.
3. Jesus wants him to see reason can't earn eternal life is cause can't be good enough.
4. Quote *Rock of Ages*, v. 2. ([Show](#))³

III. **Vv. 19-20: Gave Wrong Answer. Problem 3, Wrong view of God's Law.**

A. Jesus Quotes Commandments

1. Jesus quotes 5 of the 10 dealing w/human relationships. (*defraud* = 8th against stealing)
2. These are easily verifiable because we can examine the outward action.

B. Young Man's Answer

1. *Kept from my youth = bar mitzvah = son of commandment at 13 promises keep Law.*⁴
 - a. From outward viewpoint had kept commandments. What totally escaped him = ...
 - b. Jesus taught obedience includes inner attitudes as well as outward actions.
 - c. If lust in heart, guilty of adultery. If obey parents begrudgingly, dishonor them.
 - d. If we hate our enemies, we are guilty of murder.
2. This young man had wrong view of God's Law. Not given to see how good we are.
 - a. James 1:25 says God's Law = mirror. Mirror reveals dirt, but can't wash away.
 - b. The Law shows the sin in our life, but it can't wash it away. Only God do that.
3. Did notice which command Jesus not include? 10th ([Show](#))⁵ 2nd Table = 6 ([Show](#))⁶
 - a. *Covetous = marked by inordinate desire for wealth or possessions.*⁷
 - b. Basically, this man's money was his god. Breaking 10th & 1st commandments.
 - c. This young man *trusted [money], worshiped it, and got his fulfillment from it.*
 - d. *His morality and good manners only concealed a covetous heart.*⁸
4. When I was boy before go to dentist, brush really good. Teeth looked real clean.
 - a. Dentist ask me chew on red pill. When opened mouth, teeth covered pink dye.
 - b. Every place there was pink, there was plaque. Shocked how much plaque!
 - c. That's what sin like. We think lives pretty clean. But God's Law like pink pill.
 - d. Just as the dentist could see all the plaque, so Jesus can see all the sin.

IV. **Vv. 21-22: Made Wrong Choice. Problem 4, Wrong view of Repentance.**

A. Jesus' Demand

³ Augustus Toplady. *Rock of Ages*, v. 2. <https://i.ytimg.com/vi/GUNPAc2rz64/hqdefault.jpg>. 5/25/17.

⁴ Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). *Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary*. (Eleventh ed.). Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc.

⁵ Exodus 20:17. <http://cdn3.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/You-shall-not-covet1.jpg>. 6/1/17.

⁶ <http://slideplayer.com/slide/4230599/14/images/4/10+Commandments+Second+Table+of+the+Law.jpg>. 2nd Table of the Law. Accessed 6/2/17.

⁷ Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). *op. cit.*

⁸ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary*, p. 146. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

1. This not required of everyone for salvation. Jesus dealt w/this man individually.
2. Wealth preventing him from receiving eternal life. Jesus teaching him about repentance.
 - a. Repentance simply means turning from whatever stands between us & Jesus.
 - b. When come to Jesus, He demands we repent. Turn fr. whatever in way.

B. How About Us

1. What is keeping you from Jesus? What is the problem in your life? Jesus knows what it is. What it boils down to is this. You can't have your sins – and heaven too.⁹
2. **Will you have your sins and go to hell, or leave your sins and go to heaven.**¹⁰
3. Whatever gods in way (possessions/position/power/person/passion), must turn from.
4. Very difficult to receive the gift of salvation when our hands grasping other things.

V. **Jesus' Applications to You and Me, vv. 23-31**

A. Riches Can Rob Us of Heaven, vv. 22-25.

1. V. 25 = proverbial statement refers to something absurd/impossible. (Show)¹¹
2. Arabs still today. Needle = smallest opening possible; camel largest animal in ANE.
3. It easier to thread needle w/great big camel than get into kingdom of God when bursting w/riches.¹²
4. Why is wealth/material possessions so dangerous? (Not evil in itself.)
 - a. Material possessions can blind you so you have no desire for the spiritual.
 - b. **If we grow up w/good manners, education, good job, nice spouse, family, house, car – easy to think, I've arrived – achieved the American dream. This is what life is all about.**
 - c. But life is not all about that. Life's about God, Jesus, salvation, heaven & hell.
5. Success can keep us from the Savior; it can blind us to our real need.

B. Only God Can Save Your Soul, vv. 26-27.

1. Disciples amazed, v. 26. Jesus' response, v. 27.
2. Two ways people try to enter heaven: man's way & God's way.
 - a. Man's way = earn by good works, religious ritual, great deeds. 1 word = **impossible**.
 - b. God's way = death of Son, offers et. life to all turn from sin & receive. 1 = **possible**.

C. The Rewards Are Worth the Cost, vv. 28-31.

1. There is a cost. Jesus was very plain about that, vv. 28-29. May lose old friends.
 - a. May have family members who become critical of you. Misunderstand you.
 - b. You may have to give up some things that no longer fit into God's will.
2. There are great rewards. Jesus is speaking not so much of material gains, but spiritual.
 - a. You get new family in the family of God. People here closer to me than own relatives.
 - b. Heaven – **in the age to come eternal life, v. 30.**
 - c. Rewards from Jesus, v. 31. Might be on bottom now, but top then.
3. **He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.**¹³

⁹ Jerry Vines. *Exploring the Gospels: Mark*. Chicago: Moody Press, p. 204.

¹⁰ John Bunyan. Quoted by Jerry Vines. Ibid.

¹¹ Needle & Thread. <http://carolinasnalc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/matthew19-24.jpg>. Accessed 6/2/17.

¹² C.F.D. Moule quoted in Wessel, W. W. (1984). Mark. In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke* (Vol. 8, p. 716). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

¹³ Jim Elliot, missionary to Auca Indians in Ecuador. <http://www.azquotes.com/quote/399568>. Accessed 6/2/17.