



Encountering Christ "One Thing Missing"

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Mark 10:17-22 As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" **18** And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. **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.' " **20** And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up." **21** Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." **22** But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.

- As a rich man, he had authority in the community and possibly spiritual influence. Having such, we would assume that he should be satisfied, yet he wasn't.
- He had a need on the inside; having material possessions alone wasn't

satisfying his need.

- He had a spiritual awareness and was asking for insight because he lacked experience. He had inherited a great deal, but it didn't fill the hole that he had. He was looking to inherit something else besides wealth – eternal life.

I. Man's Question; **Mark 10:17** As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

A. The Approach; **vs. 17a** As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him...

1. How should we approach God?

a. This young man had a sense of urgency; he ran up to Christ. How do we approach Christ? Do we wait on Him; are we passive in our approach and regard for Him? Are we casual about our urgency to press into Christ? Do we have an attitude that says, "When He wants me, He'll find me..." We walk and don't run

b. But "He ran to Him..." **We're to 2 things: RUN to Him and then WALK with Him.** We tend to WALK our own way and the RUN from Him.

2. Why should we approach God? We should approach Him as LORD. We can only do so as we are humble, recognizing what we have done in rebelling against God. As on the day of Pentecost, the proclamation is a message of mercy that we respond to with repentance and as we do so, we receive the Holy Spirit. Christ's death opened up the path to peace with God.

a. When we RUN to Him, He gives the gift of repentance and allows you to turn from what we've been doing and become followers of Him

b. If Christ is merciful to us when we were wrong, how will He be when we've turned and follow Him.

B. The Posture; **vs. 17b** ... & knelt before Him, and asked Him...He came with a sense of reverence. He believed that Christ could help him

1. He wanted change and came with humility and with expectancy. He didn't come to argue, but to seek out and find.

2. He was unlike the Scribe who approached Christ with the same question who answered well but felt the need to "justify" himself asking "Who is my neighbor?"

3. When we encounter Christ, He is not wanting to hear our perspective; He is looking for submission and the commitment to embrace His will.

C. The Ask; vs. 17c "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

-Wonderful insight by this young man- he asked about "inheriting" not "earning" eternal life. He probably gained the insight from how he obtained his wealth, for he was young and probably obtained it by inheritance from his father.

II. God's Question; Mark 10:18-20 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.

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.'" **20** And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up."

A. Do you know who I am?; vs. 18 "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.

1. Do you know what "good" means? Jesus wanted to know what this man knew?

2. Did the Father reveal to you My identity? Did he know Who Jesus was; had God revealed this to him?

3. Long pause between verse 18 & verse 19... with no response from the young man- he had no clue. Jesus tested to see what He knew and when it was clear the rich young man was simply being respectful, He moved on...

B. Jesus Amplifies his need; vs. 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.

1. Jesus baits his teaching by listing all the commandments he obeyed; **vs. 20**

- a. These are the commandments that address how we deal with people; He did not list those commandments relating to God.
- b. Jesus was removing his own sense of righteousness to get him to a place of seeing the truth of his "lack". God wants us to understand that, regardless of what good we've done, we still have a need. That need is the primary thing – the need to know Christ.

2. Jesus also baits him by not stating the ones he hasn't obeyed; **vs. 19**

- a. Jesus wanted him to see what He had failed to do and that real change could only come when we began to align ourselves with God and His purpose.
- b. His problem was that he had crafted an idol of his money. Idolatry is always with a view to what we want. Whether there is an outward image, we have them in our hearts.
- c. Jesus pointed to what the young man had too much of – his wealth was too much for him, it occupied too great a place in his heart.

3. Jesus does not mention any of the commandments which deal with God alone (Have no other Gods before me, make no graven images, honor the Sabbath, don't take the name of the Lord in vain, don't covet your neighbors anything)

III. God's Answer to Man's Question...; **vs. 21-22** Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him & said to him, "One thing you lack: go & sell all you possess & give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." **22** But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.

- We are all too wealthy in some areas – with desires, plans, schemes, etc. that stand in the way of our following Christ. We may not have money, but we have other kinds of riches.
- We are passionate about things that keep us from Christ. And He will not allow us to walk with him when there are other things – prestige, influence – will not be able to be maintained.
- Truth is we are at heart poor, impoverished. What we need from Him and can find only from Him are the only source of true riches. It is critical that we are more passionate about Christ than anything else.

A. Felt love for him; **vs. 21a** Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him...

B. Gave him his answer!; **vs. 21b** "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; & come, follow Me."

1. One thing you lack

- a. Sell
- b. Give
- c. Follow

3. Wasn't the answer he wanted; **vs. 22** But at these words he was saddened, & he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.

- a. He couldn't see the eternal benefit that was to come as a result of following Him
- b. Jesus wants to bless...receiving such requires that we give up all that we are to receive Him

Don't let what you have an abundance of – thoughts about yourself, what you possess, what you dream or plan – get in the way of being committed to follow Him. God is identifying what He wants given to Him, the things that stand in the way.