



LESSON 110 MARK 10:21-24

" 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." 22But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

23Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" 24And 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!"

God had already blessed the youth with great riches, but He intended for him to have a much greater blessing than what his riches could bring him--meeting the Son of God, the Messiah. This young man had been taught about the coming of the Messiah. He had studied the character of the Messiah (Isaiah 11:1-5,) the Messiah's mission (Deut. 18:15-19, Isa 8:18-19, 9:6-7, 33:22) and had heard about the wonderful miracles He would perform (Isaiah 61:1-3) (There are many other verses that contain information about the character and work the Messiah would do, if you want to do a study on it.)

Now the youth actually gets to meet and talk face-to-face with the true Messiah. He asks, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" The young man knew there was a life after the death of his natural body. He wanted to prepare for it. He knew Jesus in His wisdom had the answer. In fact, Jesus was the Answer. John 14:6 "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

"What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" the young man asked.

Salvation is not obtained by doing. It's not something we earn by doing good works. Ephesians 2:8-9 in the ages to come he (God) might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Salvation can't be bought or sold. **1 Peter 1:18 18Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.**

Eternal life isn't inherited from our parents or passed from one generation to another. It is offered as a gift and is a result of an individual's decision to receive Jesus as Lord, and to apply personally what Jesus did on the cross for each of us. How could we ever do enough to deserve eternal life with God? We couldn't. God knew that. He knew, if salvation was ever to be ours, He would have

to offer it as a gift. So salvation isn't earned--it must be received, as a little child would receive a gift, wholeheartedly and gladly. The gift of eternal life is offered by God through His Son Jesus Christ to us, who don't deserve it and who couldn't earn it. That is called grace, and it comes to us by simply repenting of our sins, receiving God's gift of salvation by faith, believing what God has said about His Son, and receiving what Jesus did on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. We change from being the "god" in our lives to making Jesus Christ Lord of our lives.

"One thing you lack"

There are two offices Jesus must hold in your life: Savior (what He did at Calvary) and Lord (what He is in your daily life). Jesus pointed out to the young man that the one thing that ruled in his life was his possessions. His riches were a hindrance to his having eternal life, because they served as his god.

The true God must be sovereign in our lives.

Matt 6:24 24No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon (riches).

1 Tim 6:17-18 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; 18That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

1 Tim 6:10-11 10For the love of money is (a) root of all(every) evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 11But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Psalms 62:10 if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.

Proverbs 11:28 28He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

Matthew 13:22 22He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

"Sell all"

This was the only thing the young man could have done to show his complete trust in God to provide for him and that riches were not the idol he worshipped. Would God have taken care of him? Oh, yes, and he would have had peace, which at this point, he did not have.

What in your life needs to be eliminated because it is keeping you from following Jesus? What is the one thing that is hindering your spiritual growth? What are you holding onto that is interfering with the development of your relationship/fellowship with the Lord Jesus?

In Judaism, riches were thought to indicate the favor of God on a person, but the scriptures teach that riches can be deceitful (Mt 13:33), if the person trusts in them. **Psalm 62:10 "If riches increase, set not your heart upon them." Proverbs 11:28 "He that trusts in his riches shall fall..." Wealth is not the problem; the love of riches is. 1 Tim. 6:10 "The love of money is a**

root of every evil..."

This young man was not the first to be confronted with giving up his riches. Moses chose to do so, in order to do the will of God. **Heb 11:24-26 24By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; 26Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: ...** Barnabas didn't hold on to his riches either. Acts 4:37

"Come,... follow Me"

Jesus said, I AM the Way, I know the way, I'll show you the way. I am the good Shepherd, Who always leads His sheep in the right way. We don't know the best way, He does. It just makes good sense to follow the Lord.

"Take up the cross"

The work of the gospel is much more important than counting your money. Learn to depend on God and expect Him to take care of you. Mt 6:31-33 31Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Let what God treasures be what you treasure.

22But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

The young man could have had so much more than what he had, but he didn't want more once he realized what it would cost him. What a terrible decision he made!

Ask the Lord to show you any areas where you are not following Him. Make Him Lord of every part of your life. Prov 3:5-7 5Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. 7Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. 8It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. 9Honour the LORD ...

