**Get or Give? The Rich Young Ruler**

**EYES ON JESUS**

**Mark 10:15**

**15**Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

*(REVIEW - WE MUST BE AS CHILDREN)*

### The Rich and the Kingdom of God

### Mark 10:17-31

**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: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%2010&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24608d)]”

**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[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%2010&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24613e)] to enter the kingdom of God! **25**It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich 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**Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!”

**29**“Truly I tell you,” 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—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. **31**But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

**Giving your life away for the kingdom of God, ius the best thing you can do for your life for both NOW *and* ETERNITY.**

The RYR and the Kingdom of God

The story of the Rich Young Ruler (RYR) makes us consider what it is that we value most in our lives.

It points out the difference between whole-heartedly following Jesus, or than simply just obeying the rules.

**Matt 19:16 & 21**

**16**Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I doto **get** eternal life?”

>>> **21**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.”

**GIVE or GET?**

Do we come to the Lord to Get eternal life or Give Him our lives ?

Two Common expressions describing Salvation:

“Got Saved”

or

“Gave my life to the Lord”

We will see how the Rich Young Ruler viewed Salvation as something he could acquire, in the same way he acquired everything else that he ever wanted.

Jesus had already put forth the principle that following Him required us to *give up* our lives for his sake.

The very first statement Jesus made after rebuking Peter back in C.P. was this:

**Mark 8:34,35** “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **35**For whoever wants to save their lifewill lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.”

The Rich Young Ruler did not appear to be submitted to this plan.

* **Who is the Rich Young Ruler?**

NLT describes him as a “*religious leader*”. Probably a *ruler* of a local synagogue. He seems like a really really good guy. Probably very popular, righteous, of good reputation, young and RICH.

He seems like the kind of person you want to make it try to coax into joining your church. The kind you want to put no pressure on, in hopes that he’ll come back often.

But Jesus does the opposite. He makes it hard for him.

The RYR carried with him two things that Jesus detected right away;

1. Self-Righteousness
2. Entitlement

Self-Righteousness: He declared proudly that he had kept all the commandments since he was a youth. In his own eyes he was a very good person.

Entitlement: He felt that he was deserving of salvation, or at least deserving of the opportunity and capability to acquire it.

* **THE QUESTION:**

“Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”

Jesus responded, “If you want to enter life, keep the commandments”

At first glance, it appears that Jesus is saying that the young man and (and I guess all of us) must obey the commandments in order to be saved.

*But is that really what He was saying?*

Since the true salvation message is that we are “saved by grace through faith”, why would Jesus offer the rich young ruler an “alternative plan”?

When the man asked Jesus to specify which commandments he should keep, Jesus recited six of the commandments, five from the Ten Commandments and one that he added from

Leviticus 19:18; *“love your neighbor as yourself*”,

(not in the ten commandments but VERY important to Jesus)

The man replies, “All these I have kept, what do I still lack?” (verse 20), and that is a key statement. The young man was obviously religious and sincere in his pursuit of righteousness. His problem was that he considered himself to be *faultless* concerning the Law. And this is the point that Jesus challenges.  
  
Jesus tells the man, “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” ([Matthew 19:21](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2019.21)).

The young man decided that Jesus was asking too much. “He went away sad, because he had great wealth” (verse 22).

Rather than *obey* Jesus’ instructions, *he turned his back on the Lord and walked away*. The man’s choice undoubtedly saddened Jesus as well, because Jesus loved him ---([Mark 10:21](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Mark%2010.21)). **21**And Jesus, looking at him, *loved him*, 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.

In telling the young man to “*keep the commandments*”, Jesus was **not** saying that he could be saved by obeying the commandments; rather, Jesus was emphasizing the Law as God’s perfect standard.

***If***you can keep the Law perfectly, then you can escape sin’s penalty—but that’s a **big *if*.** No one has been able to keep it. Peter admitted that at the Jerusalem council.

**Acts 15:10** “**10**Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear?

When the Rich Young Ruler responded that he met the Law’s standard, Jesus simply touched on *one issue* that proved the man did not measure up to God’s holiness. The man was not willing to follow the Lord, if that meant he must give up his wealth.

Thus, the man was breaking the two [greatest commands](https://www.gotquestions.org/greatest-commandment.html); he did not;

(a) love his neighbor as himself, and he did not,

(b) love the Lord with all his heart.

He loved himself (and his money) more.

Far from keeping “all” the commandments, as he had claimed, the man was a sinner like everyone else. The Law proved it.  
  
**If** the man had loved God and other people more than he did his property, he would have *been willing* to give up his wealth to the service of God and man.

But, He had made an **idol** of his wealth, and he loved it more than God.

When we love ANYTHING more than we love God, by our; Time, Devotion, Attention, Passion it becomes an idol and the Lord may very well ask us to give it up in order to follow him.

***[HONEST QUESTION] What can become idols in our lives?***

***MONEY?, music?, Sports?, Fashion?, Pleasure/comfort?, food? Identity?, Popularity?***

In His conversation with the rich young ruler, Jesus used the man’s “love of money” to show what the man preferred OVER FOLLOWING JESUS.

The rich young ruler needed the Savior, and SO DO WE!

*The only way we can truly follow Jesus is by being willing to make* ***HIM*** *the MOST important thing in our lives. Nothing else should take that place.*

* **The Answer to the original question “*what must I do to inherit eternal life?”;***

**MATT 19:26** “Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

***Remember: Jesus, was actually on his way to Jerusalem to do what seemed impossible!***

(NOTE: this conversation took place BEFORE Jesus died on the cross. At that time, “the law” was the only way.)

The **Only way** to heaven is to live a sinless life, obeying ALL the commandments. *That’s it! : (*

(Unless of course someone sinless vouches for you by dying for you so that you can receive eternal life. But who would do that? JESUS!)

**Jesus death and resurrection changed everything!**

Jesus did what seemed impossible. Made it possible for you and I to receive salvation without keeping all the commandments. Without sacrificing animals for our sins and without bearing the burden of condemnation upon our shoulders.

**Closing:**

What does it mean to “Follow Jesus”?

**MARK 10:29-31**

**29**“Truly I tell you,” 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—*along with persecutions*—and in the age to come eternal life. **31**But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

*“along with persecutions” –* DON’T BE SURPRISED IF YOU ARE REJECTED for following Jesus, especially among the “Social Elite” who will often shun you when they find out that you REALLY believe ion the Word of God.

However, ALL of us need to be willing to give up everything to follow Jesus *(Not just pastors, missionaries, or preachers)* in order to *fully experience the many blessings* He has for you in this life and the life to come, you need to be willing to let everything go, to r*eceive* what He has for you.

There is great reward in giving up EVERYTHING to follow Jesus, and there are consequences if you don’t.

**My prayer is that you follow Him fully in this next season,**

**withholding nothing,**

**and that the blessing of the Lord is multiplied in your life,**

**and the life of your *family and friends***

**as you experience the fullness**

**of what God has for you today and for the rest of your life**.