
The Rich Young Ruler

Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30

We cannot keep all of the commandments

1. The rich young ruler comes to Jesus and says to Him that he has kept all of the commandments from His youth. Is this possible or correct? How does Matthew 5:20-48 help us to understand the extent of the law?
2. The Rich Young Ruler truly believes he is a “good person” He looks at Jesus as a teacher, and calls him “good” also. Jesus points out the difference between God and man in Matthew 19:17. God is “good” and man is inherently evil. Does this belief that man is “good” skew the ruler’s view of God? Is this belief prevalent today?
3. How does this belief that man is “good” enable the ruler’s reliance on his accomplishments and his deeds rather than seeing the gift of forgiveness and repentance?

Our riches can blind us to God and become an idol

4. The Ruler asked Jesus for what He must “do” for eternal life. Jesus responded listing all of the commandments that deal with actions. He believed he kept all of them. Finally, Jesus told him to sell his possessions and follow him. Is this a necessary step for salvation? How is this instruction to the Ruler also a caution for us today?

Salvation is impossible with man, but possible only through a work of the Spirit

5. In Jesus time, a rich man was considered to have received God’s favor or blessing. The statement that Jesus makes in vs. 23 would seem to contradict this. The disciples were confused and could not understand the meaning. Is verse 23 really telling us that wealth on earth will prohibit a person from entering Heaven?
6. In what way is our Salvation (acceptance of Christ) impossible with Man? Do we sometimes try to persuade or convince others of the reality of Christ? Does this fly in the face of this understanding?