

AMERICA VERSES THE RICH, YOUNG RULER

Mark 10:17-22

Introduction: We are living in a time of rebellion and lawlessness. Children rebel against their parents, College students rebel against authorities, law officers are being disgraced, thousands of American people have a psychiatrist. There is more uneasiness and restless visible now than ever before in the history of our country. What is the answer? The American people are searching, searching for a meaning to life. If a Bible character were chosen to represent our nation, the best choice would be the rich young ruler.

I. THE RICH YOUNG RULER'S SITUATION WAS SIMILAR TO OURS

1. He was wealthy, young, important, religious, searching for a meaning to life.
2. We are wealthy, never before in our history has so many had so much. The average American child has more money to spend than does a whole family to live on in many countries.
 - Over half of our population are young people, 25 and under and our nation is only a few hundred years old and that is young compared to other countries.
 - Everyone wants to be thought of as being young:
 - Millions of dollars are spent in beauty salons for both men and women.
 - Clothing is youthful styled.
 - Commercials are aimed at staying young and youthful tastes.
 - Everyone tries to stay and act as young as possible.
3. America has been recognized the world over as being the most important and most powerful nation on earth.
4. There are more different religions in America than in almost all other countries combined.
 - Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Bahaism, Buddhism, Ancestorism, Shintoism, and if there is a religion anywhere else on earth, it is probably also in America.
5. Americans are searching for something and here we differ from the young ruler, he knew what he was looking for but we don't.

II. THE YOUNG RULER WAS SEARCHING FOR A PURPOSE IN LIVING

1. He was rich, yet poor; young, healthy yet miserable; clean cut and religious, yet something was missing. But he found what he was missing and went to Jesus Christ to seek eternal life.
2. We are rich, yet spiritually poor; young, healthy, yet we are miserable; clean cut and religious and we find something still missing.
 - We differ from the young ruler for he knew what he was searching for, we don't.

3. We are living in an age of restlessness and activity.

- All about us is rush, rush, rush, hurry, hurry, and we are caught up in a big tidal wave of anxiety.
- Psychiatrists speak of their patients all having about the same problem, "they're stuck, they don't know where they've been, they don't know where they are, and they don't know where they are going." They are searching but don't know what for.

4. Our nation has dedicated itself to a gigantic search but few ever find what they are seeking.

- Wild weekends on lakes and resorts
- Alcohol is consumed by the barrels.
- Tranquilizers are swallowed by the thousands.
- All know methods of entertainment are used to fill the emptiness of life.
- Sex is no longer holy. It is used as something to take up time and to try to fill that dark void.
- Marriage is no longer meaningful or binding. Divorce is as popular as marriage.
- Young people live together as if they were married.

5. Ours is not only an age of searching, it has become an age of violence and despair.

- No longer can one walk safely through the parks or streets at night, it is too dangerous.
- Homes are not as safe as they once were. Kidnappings, murders, break-ins, rapes happen.
- It is not the poor, desperate people who are committing these crimes, it is the people who have plenty, sometimes too much. They are seeking and searching for something to give them a "thrill" something to fill the void of their emptiness.
- Things will only get worse until someone, somehow shows our nation and people what they are searching for - a goal in life - a purpose for living. Until Jesus Christ is found, unrest will continue.

III. IN ORDER FOR OUR COUNTRY TO WIN, WE MUST FIRST LOSE

1. The young ruler was told that in order to have what he was seeking, to go sell all that he had.

- Jesus did not ask him to do something that he himself had not already done.
- Jesus did not say that there would be no rich person saved.
- Jesus knew that the wealth of the young man was more important than what he was seeking.
- Jesus told him that nothing must stand between man and God..therefore go and sell.

2. More of us than we are willing to believe are kept from entire surrender to Jesus by the things we have, money, property, things.

3. Too many professing Christians are kept weak, shriveled and joyless because they love their money and possessions more than the Lord.

4. Too often we try to make a "deal" with Jesus:

- Willing to give, but not a tithe.
- Willing to go, but not all the way.
- Willing to surrender, but not completely.
- Willing to trust, but with some reservations.

5. Too often men, women, boys and girls come to the very gates of heaven as did this young ruler but turn sadly away because they are unwilling to give up all to pay the price for salvation.

CONCLUSION:

1. Look at your own life. Are you ill at ease? Are you restless? Are you looking for something but don't know what?
- Jesus is what is missing in your life.
2. Jesus asks for your complete surrender.
- He asks that you let nothing stand between you and heaven.
3. Salvation is easy to obtain - "**...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved..**"
- Place everything you have into His hands, your life, all that you have.
4. Don't do as the young ruler, come face to face with Jesus Christ and then turn away.
5. Now you know what you need, your search is over, now is the time to accept Jesus Christ.