

April 13th 2008: The Rich Young Ruler: Mark 10:17-27

This morning we return.....and to the story of the Rich young ruler.

The account is found in 3 of the 4 Gospels and each adds something diff.

Matthew tells us he was **young**

Mark tells us that he fell on his **knees**

Luke tells us that he was a **ruler** amongst the people

However, they all emphasize that he had GREAT wealth

He was not just rich. He was extremely wealthy. A millionaire

Here was a man that others would have envied

He had Youth

He had Power

Stinking Rich

And Mark 10:17 says:

"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?"

Now back in Mark 1:40 we read about another man who fell on his knees before Jesus. He was **a leper** and he begged Jesus for healing because he was **DESPERATE**. He would have done anything he could to get cleansing.

Do we see that same desperation here?

I don't think so, for when Jesus showed him how he could get what he wanted he walked away empty handed.

What we have here.....is a very rich young man.....making a Grand Entrance

Which is confirmed by his opening words:

"Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

By falling on his knees before Jesus he prevented Jesus from moving on his way and demanded His total attention.

By calling Him Good Teacher, he used a title much more exalted than was normally used.

He possibly expected Jesus to respond with something equally exalted like: "Most honoured and good sir"

For that is how he saw himself. As good

His wealth and position was proof of that

God blesses according to how good people are: Great blessings =

Along with that he worked at being good

When Jesus asked the question about the commandments: ones that related to others He could respond quite honestly, with a big tick on each one

But even in that he was mistaken: For Jesus knew that his love for his neighbour was way behind his love of his wealth, his position, himself.

And that his idea of what was good

In his calling of Jesus good teacher

In his saying in Matthew's account: What one good thing must I do to inherit eternal life.

Was far short of the perfect goodness that God demands from those who wish to enter His kingdom

- **This man thought that on account of all** he had and all he did he was well on his way to enjoying a life of happiness and honour after death
That all he needed to do to be sure of that was just a little bit more

And that's still the way so many think today

They feel that they are already good enough for heaven, and if extra is required, then its just more of what they are already doing.

(Nicky Gumbell's sin scale)

- **And it's at this point**

When Jesus is about to reveal to this rich young ruler that the only way he can have treasure in heaven is by giving away all the earthly things he is trusting in and aligning himself completely with Jesus

That Mark tells us, that Jesus looked at the man and loved him.

**He didn't love him because of his riches....Position...or even his enthusiasm
He loved him for himself**

- **He loved him as he loves each of us**
- **And He so wanted him to be safe in His kingdom**
- **Yet v21 has Jesus saying to him**
"One thing you lack, go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come follow me."

and v22 says

"At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth."

His wealth meant more to him than inheriting eternal life

- **It is here we find the major challenge of this account**
What Value do we place on Eternal Life ?

- **This young man wanted to be sure of heaven**

And who wouldn't !!A place of everlasting happiness and an existence millions of times better than any person enjoys in this life.

Yet he valued what he had over the eternal life that Jesus had to offer.

If you has never truly trusted Jesus, then it probably means that you are valuing something more than eternal life.

It could be a stubborn belief that what the Bible says about sin is all wrong. You may be valuing your belief that you are good enough to get to heaven as you are.

It could be pride

It could be a lack of willingness to surrender completely to Jesus

Whatever it is, while you fail to respond, you are choosing to value it over eternity, as this man did, and while you continue to do that you will have that deep sadness inside, that this young ruler walked away with.

• **Most of us here, however, are believers in Jesus**

We can look back on a time when we completely surrendered our lives to Him

When nothing was more valuable to us than following Him Being part of His kingdom

Knowing that we had life that was eternal and abundant

But have we slipped a little regarding that which we value most

Are there things in our lives that too often take priority over our living for the King

Things that we seem to give more value to
than we give to things of the kingdom

(Story from NIV Application Mark p407...)

Because of God's wonderful Grace we who have trusted in Him will not miss out on His kingdom

But let us be careful that the earthly things we may value here on earth
Do not rob us of any blessing.. Lord has prepared for those who love Him, ...in glory

