Matthew 19.16-22

“What Lack I Yet?” (Part 3)

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**Context**.

v. 1 - ***“When Jesus had finished these words, He departed from Galilee and came into the region of Judea beyond the Jordan; 2 and large crowds followed Him, and He healed them there.”***

v. 2 - “***large crowds followed Him, and He healed them there.”***

v. 13; ***“Then some children were brought to Him so that He might lay His hands on them and pray;”***

V. 16 - ***“And behold, a man came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?”***

***V. 17; “And he said to him,*** ***Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.”***

v. 18; ***“******He said to him, Which ones? And Jesus said,*** ***You shall not murder,*** ***You shall not commit adultery,*** ***You shall not steal,*** ***You shall not bear false witness,***

***v. 19; “Honor your father and mother, and,*** ***You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”***

***v. 20; “***v. 20; “***The young man said to him***, ***“I have wholeheartedly obeyed all these laws. What do I still lack?”***

**Introduction**.

He has a very impressive resume. And what the young man is really asking since he is obviously a devoutly religious person is, ‘*is there another Law I have not kept*?’ What else can I do?

He is thinking he can gain the approval of heaven by something he can execute himself; he can gain merits in heaven by merely doing some good deeds, or not doing certain unsavory, illicit, immoral things. It is not what is missing or lacking as much as it is ‘who’ is missing in your life. It is Jesus! Oh, it is Jesus; yes, it is Jesus! Do you have Jesus in your life? Does Jesus, have you? Your love, Your devotion? Your commitment and service?

What he is not lacking is an inflated assessment of his own righteousness whereby he believes he can please or satisfy the righteous judgment of God by his own works!

What he lacks is an appreciation for the perfect obedience and complete satisfaction of heaven because of the vicarious death of Jesus Christ. What the rich man lacks is an understanding of the depth of God’s love for us seen in the death of God’s own son; he lacks the revelation about God’s indescribable mercy which spared judgment on an evil and wicked world but did not spare God’s own holy Son, Jesus.

This man is a man of vast resources and accustomed to fixing things. His money said he can fix whatever is broken. But can he fix his life?

Jesus’ response is this - v. 21; ***“Jesus said to him***, ‘***If you wish to be perfect, go sell your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.***”

This is a two-part answer to the man’s question. Sell what you have and give the proceeds to the poor. Had the rich man had kept all the commandments as far as he knew, or did he?

**Question**. What, may Jesus be telling you to do, and are you doing it?

There is one commandment he had clearly and conveniently not kept which is the very first one: ***“You shall have no other gods before me”*** (Exodus 20.3).

**Preaching Point**.

This wealthy young man’s possessions had become his true god because it was what he truly worshiped! These earthly accumulations were the most important thing in his life. These are the things that gave him a false sense of comfort and security. He was so enamored with his possessions it was to the point he couldn’t imagine living his life without them. He loved them and believed he deserved those things and the security he felt being surrounded by the vast quantity of stuff. He appears to want to serve the Lord our God, but only on his terms and not on God’s terms!

It is remarkably interesting and sad that a person who seemingly has everything is asking, ‘what am I missing?’ ‘I’ll write a check; I’ll call my investment banker.’

It is equally sad that the one thing Jesus said he was missing he couldn’t buy with his wealth. What he is missing cannot be purchased with money or bartered with charitable deeds.

The Question.

**What has become most important to you**? **Do you love anything or anyone**

**more than you love Jesus**? Does the Lord Jesus Christ have the most prominent place in your life? Is God’s salvation through Christ your most important possession? And are you willing to give up everything for the sake of Christ?

‘***What must I do to have eternal life’ is the question the young synagogue ruler is asking***?

What is the answer to this most important question? Believe. Believe the gospel of God’s plan to rescue a lost humanity. “***If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10.9).***

Believe that Jesus did everything that God the Father required of you and me to inherit eternal life! It is what God did through Christ, and not what you or I have done because the Father desires to give all glory to the Lord Jesus Christ and not to this rich young ruler or ourselves. Regarding personal salvation, there are no crowns to be put on our personal crowns.

Listen to what the word of the Lord says about the crown of righteousness in 2

Timothy 4.8 - ***“Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.”***

**The Text**.

v. 22; ***But when the young man heard this, he went away sorrowful, for he was very rich.”***

Here is a love rejected. It is the love of God spurned by one who so desperately needs to be loved by God!

**Preaching Point**.

How could he reject heaven’s help? **He walked away from the miracle working Savior**, but he is going to need a miracle at some point. **He departed from the world’s greatest healer**. Did he not know he would get sick? Are you sold-out or a sellout? **He rejected our Mighty Counselor**. Won’t you ever need a counselor on your worst day? **Can he afford to reject true forgiveness from the only one who can forgive our transgressions**?

**He disassociated from his greatest friend**. Don’t all of us at times need a friend? Chances are he will one day need a good friend! Don’t turn away but this Jesus is someone you turn to when you need a friend; for when you’re down and One who promised to be around and never forsake you. **He turned from the very one who spoke the universe into existence**! Who is mightier than this? Sellout or sold-out? Wouldn’t he ever need such authority on his side? **He denied the one who spake and it came into being where there was nothing**! His money cannot buy peace, but **he foolishly rejected the Prince of Peace**! He refused the very God-man who raised the dead. **Did this young man not want new life**? Sellout or sold-out? **He cancelled his appointment with the best optometrist**. Did the rich man not want his spiritual sight? He clearly did not see who he was talking to! The unwise young man turned from this Jesus who would calm the seas and boisterous winds! **When life is raging, he will need the only one who can calm a storm**! And how could he refuse an infusion of **peace from the great Prince of Peace**?

Are you Sellout or a sold out?’ Which one are you! Sold out to Jesus, or a sellout to yourself?

**The Conclusion**.

Are you willing to give up and surrender your will to God’s will and forfeit your weakness for God’s strength?

What about the runner who had trained incessantly for the big race but during the race he collapsed just short of the finish line. All his training was for nothing if he did not get up. He couldn’t do it on his own. What a tragedy if the story ended like that. But out from the stands was a spectator who was more than a spectator, it was his father. He knew the young runner and came onto the track where the young man had fallen, helped him up and carried him across the finish line.

Aren’t you tired of trying to finish on your own? No matter how hurt you are, God our Father can and will pick you up and give you the victory.

**Question**. Are you a “Sellout” or “Sold-out?”

Like this runner you need someone greater in strength than yourself to carry you over the finish line of life, and that is Jesus. ***“Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”*** (Matthew 11,28).