



The Life of Jesus (62)

The Rich Young Man

(2)

Matthew 19:16-22



#1 Priority

“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” (Mt 19:21)

This command does not necessarily apply to all believers. It doesn't mean that all Christians must sell all of their possessions and give to the poor in order to follow Jesus.

It's likely that Jesus saw in the man's heart his love of money. Because he loved money more than God and more than others, he couldn't obey the command to love others.

Even though he had enjoyed many good things in the world, he wasn't fully satisfied. There was still a desire that couldn't be filled with the things he had.

So what Jesus really emphasizes is the priority of one's life.



#2 Priority

What we prioritize in our lives shows what we really value.

If you really prioritize your relationship with God, you'll naturally spend more time with Him, reading His word, and talking and listening to Him through prayer. **You won't let anything prevent you from having that kind of relationship with Him.**

You might still play video games, watch Netflix or YouTube, and use social media like Instagram or TikTok, but you won't love them more than you love God.

But if **your priority is not God but the pleasure** that you get from these things, Jesus will ask you to do the same thing that He asked of the young man. He will ask you to remove all those things in your life so that **you can focus on what's truly valuable and important to you** and really prioritize your relationship with God again.

Without this process, without getting rid of every obstacle that blocks our relationship with God, we can't really follow Jesus. We need to learn to place Him first in our lives, surrendering every aspect of our lives to Him.

#3 Priority

Worldly things will only give you temporary pleasure but Jesus wants to give us eternal joy and true satisfaction for our souls.

Then, the question is, “**which one will you choose?**”

Will you choose to live a life that puts God first and join in His eternal kingdom for the sake of your soul, or will you choose to live a life that prioritizes satisfying your fleshly desires?

We might wonder if God is asking a lot from us. Yes He is! He requires us to surrender every aspect of our lives, not just parts of them.

But the important thing is not what He demands of us but what He wants to give us. He wants us to put Him first because that's the only way we can join in His eternal life.

“Do not love the world or anything in the world... The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever” (1 Jn 2:15, 17)

#4 Treasure in Heaven: Invitation to Life

What Jesus asked of the young man wasn't too much because it was actually an invitation to eternal life, which was far greater than all his possessions.

That's why after telling him to sell all his possessions and give to the poor, Jesus added, "you will have treasure in heaven" (Mt 19:21)

Here, the treasure in heaven refers to the eternal life that the young man wanted to get. It was definitely much more valuable than everything he already had—wealth, fame, power, and his earthly life.

This priceless treasure in heaven is what Jesus also promises to give us. But again, there's one requirement to receive the eternal treasure—faith in Jesus. We need to have true faith, which requires us to surrender all we have to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

#5 Treasure in Heaven: Invitation to Life

This story is the opposite of the parable about the kingdom of God that we talked about before in Matthew 13:44,

“The kingdom of heaven is like **treasure hidden in a field**. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field” (Mt 13:44)

In this short parable, when the man found the treasure hidden in the field, he sold all he had to buy the field to have the treasure.



That’s **the natural response that all those who find the true value of the kingdom of God** have in common. They don’t hesitate to give everything they have to God because they know that what God gives them is much better than anything that they have.

#6 How will you respond?

Now, Jesus is asking you the same question.

“Will you give your life to me? Will you get rid of the things that keep you away from me in order to have a close relationship with me? Will you let me guide you? Will you follow me?” And he says, “then, you will find the treasure in heaven, eternal life in me.”

Please remember that **God's plan for you is greater than you can ever imagine.** He never gives you things that are worse than you have now. But, in order to receive what He offers you, **you must first open your hands and lay down the things that you have.**

Then, you will be able to sincerely follow Jesus' way, and God will fill you with every spiritual blessing and faithfully guide you to His kingdom where you will enjoy eternal life with Him.

Memory Verses

“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” (Mt 19:21) (2)

“Do not love the world or anything in the world... The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever” (1 Jn 2:15, 17) (2)

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field” (Mt 13:44) (2)

Refelction Questions

1) What's the priority in your life right now? **Is there anything that you love more than you love God?** Or is there anything that you put ahead of God? What keeps you from having a close relationship with God the most?

2) If Jesus came to you today and asked you to give your whole life to Him and follow Him, how would you respond? **Do you believe that the treasure in heaven that He wants to give you is better than everything that you can possibly have in the world?** Would you accept His invitation to surrender everything to Him and follow Him?