

11/23/2008 – Nathan Ward

“Lessons from the Rich Young Ruler”

- What is the focus of preaching?
 - To come to Christ or to come down the aisle?
 - To baptize or convert?
 - This man came to Christ, yet was turned away
- Matt 19:16-22 – rich young ruler
 - Four things the man got right
 - He had the right motive
 - He was looking for eternal life
 - A “ruler” probably in the synagogue; high status, yet he knew he lacked something
 - Did we have the right motive when coming to Jesus?
 - He had the right attitude
 - Unlike many of the Jewish leaders of the day (who hated Jesus)
 - He was eager and humble, not fearing anyone’s thinking
 - He came to the right source
 - 1 John 5:11, 20 – Jesus is the only way to have eternal life
 - John 14:6 – if you want to get to God, you must have Jesus
 - Acts 4:11f – there is no other name under which to be saved
 - Nothing in his past had given the answer to his question about eternal life
 - He asked the right question
 - Not asking for a freebie, handout, miracle, etc.
 - Jesus said: follow the law – not what he told others (cf. Nicodemus was told to be born again; it is impossible to follow the law)
 - Seems like Jesus gave a wrong answer to the question

- Jesus' answer exposes the problem this man had
- Three things the young man got wrong
 - He was prideful
 - He felt so sure about following the law, he didn't notice the parts that he overlooked/didn't follow
 - He did not confess his guilt
 - James 2:10 – we are all guilty of breaking some law
 - Sins, problems, etc. can be internal, not only external (i.e. not just doing the physical acts of the law means one's heart is right)
 - One must confess guilt and dependence on Jesus to follow him
 - He would not submit to Jesus
 - His money was more important to him – something other than Jesus was more important
 - Luke 14:33 – we have to renounce everything we have
- We must do likewise to be saved
 - Repent, confess our guilt, and come whole-heartedly
 - Matt 10:37-19 – we must lose our lives for Jesus
 - There is a cost of following Jesus...a cost too high for the young ruler
 - Just because one wants to come to Jesus, if one doesn't accept his terms and follow him completely, we're only coming to Jesus on our terms
 - The rich young ruler only lacked "one thing" (Mark 10:21)
 - 99% right is not enough to follow Jesus
 - Is there one thing keeping us from eternal life?