

Matthew 19:21-22

Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

In today's verses, this is in regards to a rich young man who came to Jesus asking Jesus what good things "he must do" to have eternal life.

† **Matthew 19:16** *Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"*

And Jesus responded that he should keep the commandments.

† **Matthew 19:17** *So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."*

Then this young man asked Jesus a question that I thought was crazy when he asked Jesus, which was "**which ones**" meaning which of the commandments. Now if he would have asked me this I would had told him "*Dude, all of them*" but that was not Jesus' response. Read what Jesus told him.

† **Matthew 19:18-19** *He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "*

When you read Jesus response, all the commandments that Jesus quoted had to do with how we treat others, but not how we reverence God. But I like the young man's response when he said:

† **Matthew 19:20** *The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?"*

With today's verse being Jesus' response. When I read Jesus' response, it show us, and the man, that he was not really doing for others like he thought he was, because if he was, he would had done what Jesus told him to do "**sell what you have and give to the poor**" willingly with no questions asked.

When I read this young man's response "**Which ones?**", I thought of how people seem to seek out how they can just make it into heaven, while keeping the same lifestyle that they have, so

they wonder, “Well, what’s the minimum that I need to do to get into heaven?” or even, “What do I need to give up and what can I keep doing but still make it into heaven?”

But if you notice Jesus’ response again in today’s verse, Jesus was offering this young man eternal riches in heaven, “***you will have treasure in heaven***” yet he still walked away “***sorrowful***” because he could not let go of his temporary riches that he had here right now on this earth to gain treasures in heaven that last forever. Jesus addressed this earlier in Matthew chapter 6

† **Matthew 6:19-21** ***Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***

After the young man walked away sorrowful, Jesus continued on starting in verse 23 talking about earthly riches verses eternal riches in heaven, and one other aspect I want to focus on, along with this young man who clung onto earthly things, is verse 25

† **Matthew 19:25** ***When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"***

Now any time you read prior to Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection the words “***His disciples***” this usually talks about the 12, and includes Judas Iscariot. So as Jesus is talking about earthly riches verses heavenly riches things, just as He has many other times, it says that “***His disciples heard it***” and not only heard it, but their response was that “***they were greatly astonished***” this includes Judas Iscariot as well, yet he still chose to sell Jesus for 30 pieces of silver anyway.

As you read Jesus’ response to this young man, it not only talks about having eternal riches in heaven, but Jesus also says to “***come, follow Me***”. Therefore the young man not only allowed his earthly riches to keep him from heaven, but choose them over Jesus, who he could see and was standing right there in front of him. Once again Jesus tells us why those who do that do, “***For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also***”

It should makes us stop and think about the things we have, buy or want and if they will further or hinder our walk with the Lord?

What about the music you listen to and pay to listen to, are you choosing to buy that instead of being obedient to the Lord by keeping the world out of your reach by not buying music that glorifies sin and not the Lord?

You can ask the same about movies you pay to go and see or rent or even buy.

What about all the toys we buy, like having the latest version of the smart phone, or tablet or computer, or car, or clothes, or?

Now I am not saying that these things will keep you from heaven or you are not saved if you have them. But ask yourself, *“Is it affecting my walk with the Lord? Is it taking up more of my time that I could actually use spending with Jesus, in the word and in prayer?”*

Didn't Jesus tell us:

† **Mark 8:34-37 (NLT2)** *Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?”*

Yet we make excuses for not reading the bible or praying or going to church more. When we do, we actually have it backwards, because we should be coming up with excuses why we can't do those things that keep us from the Lord and spending times with Him, and our excuses is just that, because it hinders my walk and relationship with the Lord, Therefore, I choose not to go there or do that or buy that, but rather I choose to have a better, closer relationship with the Lord instead.

† **Deuteronomy 10:12-13** *And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?*

† **Micah 6:8** *He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?*