

Lesson 38 Matthew 19.13-22 (13) Jesus teaches that "having" eternal life is not by observing the law

Teachable children brought to Jesus

The purpose of bringing these children was that He should place His hands on them and pray once for all for them or make vows in respect of them. The disciples actually rebuked the children. Jesus said, "Allow the teachable children, and do not prevent them coming to me *for of such is the kingdom of heaven*. And when He had laid His hands on them he went from there. It is notable that we are not told Jesus "made such vows". However the whole attitude of Jesus shows He was willing to commit Himself to those who were desirous of committing themselves to Him in a lasting union-hence "of such is the kingdom of heaven" Christ's Kingdom proceeds on the basis of "taking the lowly things and the despised-the things that are not to nullify the strong" 1Cor 1.28

The rich young ruler's concept of Jesus

"Good Master" said the young man as he addressed Jesus. It was Aristotle that dubbed Ethics, "victory in the battle for good". Jesus replied, "Why use the term "good" of me? Only God is "good"! This statement did not mean that Jesus rejected the title-but he desired the young man to really understand whom He was dealing with.

The big question

"What must I do to obtain eternal life", the young man asked. Jesus replied, "Keep the commandments!" This reply introduces an utter impossibility. No-one has ever succeeded so to do save Jesus. The young man drew the wrong conclusion. He wanted a few directives isolated that were capable of being observed lifelong. Jesus quoted all the man-ward commands of Moses except "Thou shalt not covet". The young man boasted that he had watched against failure in all these areas since youth.

The Problem

Jesus was dealing with his acquisitive problem in by-passing the 10th command. He urged him that if he was to be "complete" in the sight of God he should "sell all" "give to the poor" and "follow" Him. The young man was annoyed or distressed (Greek *λυπεω*) like embattled foot soldiers harassed by cavalry and in full retreat.

From Paper to practice



- 1 Did Jesus accept that little children could be introduced to salvation? Y/N
- 2 Does it matter who Jesus is understood to be before we can be saved? Y/N
- 3 Can we perfectly keep the commandments and is this a route to heaven? Y/N
 - 4 Is there evidence that Jesus knew the Achilles' heel of this young man i.e. his sin? Y/N
- 5 Does sin require to be dealt with before we can "have" eternal life? Y/N