

TITLE OF MESSAGE: BLESSED ASSURANCE: JESUS IS MINE

Imagine a gleaming, perfectly washed car that looks flawless from a distance. Up close, however, you see smoke rising from the hood and a dashboard full of flashing warning lights. It appears perfect, but internally, it's breaking down.

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Here's the Story: Guy comes to Jesus – We don't know much, but we do know...

- He's Rich; He's Young; He's in Charge of Something – Young Ladies, He's the kind of guy you take home to momma
- He asks a question:

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?"

Great Question:

- It's a question all of us want answered –
- "What good thing shall I **do** that I may have eternal life?"

Notice Jesus Response: **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."

- *Why do you call Me good?* If you believe I'm good: I'm God.
- Jesus points to the universal truth – All (but God) have sinned – fallen short of the glory of God
- The Rich Young Ruler seemed a bit reluctant to agree

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.**"

- If you want to eternal life, you have to keep the commandments – perfectly...**all the time, every time!**

Matthew 19:18 - 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,' ¹⁹ 'Honor your father and *your* mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

- 5 of the 6 Commandments dealing with Human Relationships
- Jesus adds Leviticus 19:18 which is the second part of the Great commandment – Love neighbor as yourself

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

All these things ! have kept...He's a good young man – Church going fellow – He checked all the boxes

- There is a human tendency to view salvation, the pursuit of eternal life as a list of tasks or behaviors one must perform to gain God's favor...

- If I do the right stuff, and don't do the wrong stuff, God will have to accept me.
- We try to modify our behavior...
- The Rich Young Ruler was banking on external modification...behavior modification,

Matthew 19:20 - He confidently declared, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?"

- **He believed he had fulfilled the requirements through external actions,**
- **Yet he sensed an emptiness, a "lack" within.**

He was looking for Assurance

It is Not Found **Behavior Modification**

Assurance Can be Found in Heart Transformation

Assurance of Salvation is Not Found Behavior Modification

If I do this; If I don't do that.

- All I have to do is concentrate on doing the right things and not doing the wrong things. No problem! But if you've ever tried to follow Jesus with this approach, you know how quickly those lists become a heavy burden.
- Here's a sample of the list people have to maintain when they're aiming at a target based on activity: Attend church every week. Read your Bible every day. Pray every day. Consistently give a portion of your income to the church. Regularly share the gospel with others. Be a good husband/wife, father/mother, son/daughter. Work hard at your job. Don't gossip (unless it's disguised as a prayer request). Don't disrespect others. Don't break the Ten Commandments.
- Now, maybe you looked over this list and thought, Those all seem like good goals. What's the problem? Let me be clear: nothing is wrong with these activities in and of themselves.

Doing good things and avoiding bad things isn't the problem.

- The problem is basing our lives on the false idea that doing good things and avoiding bad things earns some kind of spiritual credit in God's Heavenly Bank & Trust. It won't.
- We're just following a list of superficial, external traits that are nothing more than conformity to a system we created, not a system God created for us. (Pitman, *Unburdened*, pp. 31-32)

Romans 3:20 - Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

- Warren Wiersbe said, "Jesus did not introduce the law to show the young man how to be saved, but to show him that he needed to be saved.
- The law is a mirror that reveals what we are." (Wiersbe, *Be Loyal: Mt.* p. 169)

It is Not Found **Behavior Modification**

Assurance Can be Found in Heart Transformation

Matthew 19:20 - The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" **This give you the feeling that he is looking for assurance.**

Matthew 19:20 - ²⁰ 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." ²² But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

It sounds like assurance can be found in Works...Doing good deeds are ...

- Not a universal requirement for salvation,
- nor was it another behavior for him to *add* to his list.
- This is a diagnostic probe to reveal the true condition of this man's heart.
 - Illustrate = Have you ever been the doctor and he seemed to poke and prod you.
 - The doctor pokes around until he finds the source of the pain
 - Does it hurt there? No There? No There? Ouch! Does it hurt there

The ruler was looking for a minor adjustment, a "behavior modification," but Jesus was calling for a radical heart transformation, a complete reorientation of his allegiances and priorities.

- Which would have been evident by his desire to give everything to Jesus
- True life with God isn't about doing enough good deeds; it's about a surrendered heart that trusts and follows Christ above all else.

Matter of the Heart

It has been said, "The heart of the matter is the matter of the heart.

Think back to Sermon on the Mount...***You have heard it said, but I say***

- Don't commit murder, but I say – Don't be angry at your brother
- Do not commit adultery, but I say – any one that looks on a women with lust has committed adultery with her in his heart.
- You...don't swear falsely, but I say let your Yes be Yes and your No be No
- You...love your neighbor / hate your enemy, but I say, "...bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

The Rich Young Ruler was looking for assurance in deeds of the Law

Romans 3:20 - Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:21-26 – But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through ***faith*** in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Assurance of Salvation is Found...

Assurance is Found in Redemption – Rom. 3:22-24

Biblical redemption is Christ's costly purchase of our freedom from sin's bondage, buying us back to be God's own.

Assurance is Found in Justification – Rom. 3:23-24

Romans 3:23 - ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Justification: Declared Righteous

Just as if I'd never sinned –

Just as if I'd always obeyed

Eternal Life: Assurance of Eternal life is not found in what we **DO**, but what Jesus has **DONE**

- Jesus Finished work – Life; death, resurrection.
- We talked about this on Good Friday – On the Cross Jesus cried out, "Tetelestai-It is Finished"
 - Debt is Completely Paid, The Sentence is Fully Served; Victory is Totally Won;

Not about rights and wrongs, do's and don't, rules and regulations – It's about heart change

- When we repent and believe in what Jesus has already done, God gives a new heart

Ezekiel 36:26-27 - I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Assurance is not found in behavior modification, but in heart transformation.

The Rich Young Ruler was banking on his own righteousness

- I have kept all these things from my youth
- Jesus said, "Prove it!"
- Selling everything was not a work to be done to earn salvation, it was a work to be done to prove salvation had taken place

Matthew 19:22 - But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

This point directly follows from the first, as Jesus' penetrating command exposed the ruler's true idol.

- His sadness wasn't because he was being asked to do something impossible, but because he was unwilling to part with what truly held his heart. His riches were not merely assets; they were his security, his identity, and ultimately, his god.
- He claimed to observe / obey all the one another commands, but Jesus' command exposed his true idol
- It demonstrated the lack of obedience to the first and great command – Love the Lord with ALL your heart, soul, mind, and strength
- Big 10 – Thou shall have not other gods before me

- This wasn't because keeping the law grants eternal life—the Bible clearly teaches salvation by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV). Rather, Jesus used the law to expose the man's self-righteousness.

This story powerfully illustrates that while we might seek to improve our behavior, Jesus calls for a complete change of heart, a willingness to enthrone Him as Lord over every aspect of our lives, including our most cherished possessions and sources of security.

The Gospel is about receiving a new heart and new life in Christ, not merely attempting to modify old behaviors.

What are the Implications for our lives

Assurance is Found in Redemption, Justification, but mostly ...

Assurances is found in Sanctification

Romans 6:22 - But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

Biblical sanctification is the Holy Spirit's ongoing work, progressively transforming believers into the likeness of Jesus Christ. Picture of Steps

We all deal with this whether we're new to the faith or been walking this road for decades\

- We all want to know we are saved – Be assured of eternal life
- It's not about what you do; it's about what Jesus has done!

Relentless Pursuit of Progress toward Perfection – I John 3 –

- I John 3:1 – Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!
- I John 3:2-3 - We who are saved are the children of God – "...it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but ... we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
- We ***Relentless Pursue God's Design for our lives – This is our Mission!***

John MacArthur – We will sin less, but hurt more

- **Growing Sensitivity:** makes sin seem more hideous, leading to deeper sorrow when they fail.
- **The Mark of Maturity:** increased brokenness over sin, which brings joy through a deeper understanding of abundant grace.
- **Persistent Conviction:** The Holy Spirit convicts the believer to repent, leading to a disciplined life where they sin less.

I heard Robby Gallaty use this illustration ...

- The time between the commission of sin (right hand) and the conviction (include repent and believe)
- Mark of Maturity – Indicator that your heart is being transformed is ...
 - The time between commission of sin and conviction is smaller
 - Time between when you commit / omit sin and when you fall under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, repent and believe ...

- ... when that window is smaller, that is a good indicator of transformation

Pastor J.D. Greear (Jesus) He is either Lord of all or not Lord at all, and your schedule, priorities, giving, and devotion will reveal whether he is first in your heart.

Actions: Next Steps

Repent and Believe that His way is better

- For Salvation – You have been banking on modified behavior to get you to heaven
 - ***Ephesians 2:8-10*** - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
 - ***Titus 3:5-6*** - not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
 - ***Romans 10:13*** - For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”
- You have strayed – I’ve wondered far away from God, now I’m coming home.

Renew our hearts and minds daily, weekly

- 5G Life – God Time, Gather Time, Group Time
- ***Romans 12:2*** - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Reorient our Lives around the gospel

- 5G Life – Give Time, Go Time
- Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- When you take the foot of the gas on God/Gather/Group time, it is often seen in Give/Go time first

Use Bank illustration: Joby Martain - [Link](#)

- You go into the Bank, trillion dollars in debt
- Banker then wipes away your debt – Good – Still have to work
- Banker adopts you as part of his family... gives you his debit card...now you work because you are part of the family, not to become a part of the family