

Trenton, and Sam graduated from High School...Bracelets to get in...no bracelet...no bleacher

Every person in here ...they will live forever (Ecc. 3:11) Eternity into heart...where? Heaven / Hell

What Separates? Why should I let you into my Heaven...What is the bracelet?

BI – You lack what it takes to inherit eternal life | Question - Do you know the way to Heaven?

¹⁷ And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰ And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” ²¹ And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” ²² Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Two People Narrative: Jesus...set out on His journey = Final sweep towards Jerusalem – Man

• Parallel Luke = ‘Young’ | ‘Ruler’ (Jew) | ‘Wealthy’ | ??? One thing...Eternity | **Inherit = Death**

If you want to know the way to Heaven

1. Ask the Right Person (17)

¹⁷ And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Right person...subject | 16-year-old marriage advice | For answers about eternity ask the eternal

• Expert in the field – John 1:1 ‘In the beginning was the Word...was with God...was God’

• Owner of the establishment – Psalm 115:16 ‘The heavens are the Lord’s heavens’

If you want answers to existential questions...why would you go anywhere else?

2. Approached the right way (17)

a) Ran = Middle Eastern men did not run...hike robe...expose legs...undignified and shameful

b) Knelt = Worshipful posture...his contemporaries wanted Jesus killed as a false prophet

c) Asked = Seeking the eternal life he knows he doesn’t possess

We have far too little: Running to Jesus | Kneeling before Jesus | Asking of Jesus

Nagging feeling...he’s missed something | Home Alone | What about my eternity?

If you want to know the way to Heaven...

Are you asking the right question to the right person the right way?

3. Use the Right Definition (18-20)

¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰ And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.”

Jesus is not denying His deity – He is getting the man to define terms correctly...

• Man thinks he’s ‘Good’ – He want validation that his ‘Goodness’ has earned him Eternal life

Jesus rattles off six commandments and – ‘All these I have kept from my youth’

• Only God is good – Originally Good | Good in Himself | Depends on no other for His goodness

o God is infinitely good – boundless good that knows no limits – Cannot do wrong...only good!

Jesus is teaching: You cannot ‘good enough’ for eternal life | 6 commands = External Goodness

We cannot use man’s definition of ‘Good’ because it’s subjective

• Good movie...I hated it | Good idea...backfires | Good modernist art...I don’t get it

A good person...as defined by whom? – Only God is good...you are I = sinners

Romans 3:10 ‘No one is righteous, no, not one’

You and I don’t deserve heaven because we’ve done bad against the only being who is good

Asking the right question to the right person the right way? Are you using the right definition?

If you want to know the way to Heaven...

4. Consider the Right Answer (21)

²¹ And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, Why did Jesus love him? Because he ‘looked at him’ – Saw Him in a divine way

a) Jesus knew he was earnestly seeking – Keeping commandments was probably true

b) Jesus could identify – was the richest and plummeted into poverty

c) Jesus knew he was lost – The man was lacking something

Jesus said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”

This is not a commandment for all of us...it’s a commandment for some of us...heart question

Jesus looked at the place of worship in this man’s heart...realized He wasn’t on it

Table – Stuff | Ambition | Comfort | Fear | Desire | IF YOU WERE STANDING THERE...WHAT?

The primary command in the text isn’t ‘sell’ – It’s ‘Follow’

Those who have saving faith...freely follow

Saddens me how many times I’ve seen this text preached to support monetary giving

Man did not have a giving problem...he had a receiving problem...receive grace through faith

Giving away your possessions doesn’t save you...having faith in Jesus does

• What did he lack? (Wasn’t poverty) - 1st commandment – God must be the God of your life

The man was guilty of idolatry – God tolerates no rivals

Have you considered the answer? Will you follow Jesus even if costs you everything you hold dear?

I have decided to follow Jesus...no turning back

The whole battle of conversion is fought over what is dearest to the heart

• What or who has 1st place in my life

o You can Run – Kneel – Ask...but until you’re ready to follow (He’s Lord)...Heaven is not yours

You want to know the way to Heaven?

5. Make the Right Decision (22)

²² Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Possessions remained his God – He did not own his possessions...his possessions owned him

The man was at a crossroads and he took the wrong path

• He came in asking the right question: ‘What must I do to inherit eternal life?’

• He approached the right way: Ran – Kneeling – Asking

• He got the right definition: Only God is good

• He considered the answer: Get rid of what keeps you from Jesus and follow Him

He made the wrong decision | Sad words...went away

He wanted eternal life and was told:

a) All his wealth could not purchase it.

b) In his position he did not attain it.

c) He was conscious could not grasp it.

I said in the beginning: He Understood ‘Inherit’ because it was something you got because of a death

• Inheritance is something you receive because someone else died...that’s the gospel...

You want to know the way to Heaven?

Ask the right question | Approach the right way | Use the Right Definition | Consider right answer

Have you made the decision? | CROSSROADS | If you don’t think you have...then you have

Jesus asks you to follow...don’t ‘go away’ | Don’t leave here disheartened and sorrowful

The bracelet that gets you into Heaven:

• Is not a list of your good works

• Is not a showing of your possessions

• Nor your accomplishments – It’s an indicator of ownership...whose are you?

Communion