

Conversations with Jesus : The Rich Young Ruler a message for the
Abundant Life Class at Gulf Coast Baptist Church by Steve Thomas
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Introduction

This was one of the most interesting conversations of Jesus Christ recorded in the scriptures. Three different gospels record this event and we get some significant details from each one.

Passage

Unique Detail

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|------------------|---|
| Matthew 19:16-30 | Calls him a "young man" |
| Mark 10:17-31 | Records that Jesus "loved him" |
| Luke 18:18-30 | Calls him a "ruler" |
| Mark 10:17 | Says he came running and knelt before Jesus |

The young man comes to Jesus seeking what appears to be the gospel. But Jesus does not give him the answer that he _____. What we really learn is that the man is not seeking truth but affirmation. Jesus cuts him to the quick and points out the obstacles that are keeping this man from heaven.

The Initial Exchange

The first exchange is very telling, because it declares the “sides” to this coming conflict. The man comes to God, and we actually see in Mark that he is very eager to have this conversation with Jesus because he comes _____. The question he asks is “ What (good thing) shall I do, that I may inherit eternal life?”. This points out that he believes that eternal life is something that can be _____, not given. Before Jesus gives him an answer, he asks the man a question of His own - “Why callest thou me good?” This tells us that Jesus knew that the man did not accept His _____ claim. He is essentially saying to him that only God is good, and you don’t believe that I am God.

Individuals that believe in their own high value are essentially devaluing God. If we think that we have something to offer God, we must have a pretty low _____ of the sacrifice that Jesus made to make us pure.

The Answer

Jesus’s answer was technically correct, even though no one but Jesus could accomplish it. To “earn” your way to heaven, you must be _____. Jesus listed the commandments to him. But it is interesting that only the commandments having to do with how _____ interacts with _____ were listed. Jesus had already established that the man could not have a right relationship with God, because he did not accept Jesus as divine.

While it is possible that the man had not committed adultery, had not stolen anything, had not lied against someone in a trial, and it is possible that he was a very good son, and honored his

father and his mother, Jesus's next comment revealed that he did not do it out of love. He had done all these things for his own self _____.

Jesus Exposes His Heart

When the man told Jesus that he had observed each one of these commandments from his youth, he asked Jesus, what else do I lack? Jesus responded that he should sell his possessions and give the wealth to the poor. This made the man very sad, because he had great possessions. As a law keeper in his own eyes, Jesus had to expose his _____. The man loved his "stuff" more than he loved God. The man leaves without ever becoming a follower of Jesus. He simply had his own self-righteousness and wealth. This was not going to get him to heaven. Jesus goes on to point out that it is difficult for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God. These are _____ kingdoms and Jesus is teaching some deep truth here that does not concern our young man.

Conclusion

This man comes to Jesus with _____, searching for _____ and leaves sorrowful, having been exposed for the lustful man that he was. A conversation with God will do this to people. The Word of God is quick and powerful, dividing even the soul and the spirit. It discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart. Jesus was able to cut through the _____ and get to the point with this man. He no longer could boast that he had earned heaven.