

## INTRODUCE

Well, if you have your Bibles, and I hope you do,

- please grab them and turn to Matthew chapter 19.
- You can open a phone or a tablet to Matthew 19,
- or you can use one of the hard-backed black bibles
  - under every single chair.
  - You'll find Matthew 19 on page **824**.

## INTRODUCTION: SUGAR GLIDERS

You ever say to yourself,

- *I wish I could go back to my younger self,*
- *with what I know now,*
- *and give him advice!*

You ever wish that?

I had an experience like this.

- It was 2006.
- I was 21.
- I lived with three guys in an apartment.

And one of my roommates got a bonus from his job.

- So, he told us his plan...
- was to buy a brand new PlayStation 3...
  - they had just come out.
- And bro was going to drop \$600 on the thing.

So, we were pumped!

But on the day he was planning to bring home the PlayStation... something happened that I didn't see coming!

I walk in the front door of our apartment,

- and I immediately notice a large cage in the corner of the room
- covered with a blanket.

And I see my roommate in the kitchen, so I'm like,

- *"Alright dude...let's get our PlayStation on!"*

But his response was,

- *"Chris, I didn't get the PlayStation,*
- *but I spent the money on something WAY better.*
- *I bought us sugar gliders."*

Now, I had never heard of a sugar glider, and you may not have either.

- A sugar glider is a small marsupial-rodent looking thing.
  - It's kinda like a small flying squirrel.
- Here's a picture of a sugar glider. **SLIDE**

His plan was to breed them...and to sell them...

And he said these words: *"We're gonna be rich!"*

Now I didn't initially realize they could fly.

- So, I'm playing non-PlayStation 3 video games,
  - And I'm not wearing a shirt...
  - just a dude sans blouse...
- when all of a sudden a sugar glider flies over...
  - lands on my shoulder...
  - and digs its little claws into my skin!
- I screamed!
- And flung that freaky thing across the room.

That was 2006.

## APPLE

Now, in 2006 there was a company called Apple, ever hear of them?

- Well, in 2006 one share of Apple stock cost \$2.58.

And something was just about to happen to Apple.

- Because in January of 2007
- they announced a product called the iPhone...
  - like the first one!
- And it changed the world.

Well, today that one share of Apple stock is worth \$191.93.

That's a 7339% increase.

- So, my friend spent \$600 to try to breed Sugar Gliders...
  - and said: *"We're gonna be rich!"*
- If he would have taken \$600 and spent it on a PlayStation...
  - he'd still have friends.
- But if he had taken that \$600 and invested in Apple...
  - he'd now have \$44,634.88 not including any interest.

I wish I could go back.

- I wish I could tell my 21-year-old self some things.
  - One in particular concerning Apple stock...
    - and another, about flying marsupials.

## TRANSITION

I'm calling today's sermon **SLIDE RICHES**

And that's a common daydream...but it begs the question:

What are you investing in? And is it the right thing?

- And as I prepared this sermon...

I found myself wanting to give advice to the man in our text.

I want to scream to him:

- *Hey, invest in something different!*
- *Make a different choice!*
  - *Don't buy the sugar gliders!*

But as we'll see, his story is unbelievably relevant for us today.

Let's get after it. Matthew 19, starting in verse 16:

**BLANK SLIDE**

### **MATTHEW 19:16**

[16] And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?"

### **EXPLAIN: QUESTION**

So, a man approaches Jesus.

- And he comes to Jesus with a question.
  - *What must I do to have eternal life?*
- Listen, good question!
  - He wants to know about eternal life...the right thing!
    - And, you came to the right guy!

Verse 17:

### **MATTHEW 19:17**

[17] And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments."

## EXPLAIN: KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS

So, Jesus doesn't give him a straight answer!

- Jesus knew the answer:
  - What must I do to have eternal life?
    - *Just believe in me!*
      - *Declare with your mouth...*
      - *And believe in your heart...*

That's what he COULD HAVE said.

But Jesus doesn't say that...

- because he can see into this guy's heart...
- and there are some deeper things going on there.

So he goes in a different direction.

He says, "You want to enter life? **Keep the commandments.**"

Verse 18:

## MATTHEW 19:18a

[18] He said to him, "Which ones?"

## EXPLAIN: WHICH ONES

Now, **which ones** is actually a good question to Jesus' statement.

That's because the Jews actually counted 613 laws in the Torah.

- You may be familiar with 10 of them? Right?
  - We fight to keep these on monuments.
  - and in schools.

But there were actually 613 of these commandments.

So, the man is like,

- *“Keep the commands?”*
- *Like all of them?*
- *All 613?”*

Verse 18:

### **MATTHEW 19:18-19**

[18] He said to him, “Which ones?” And 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 mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

### **EXPLAIN: TEN COMMANDMENTS**

- Jesus just named five of the Ten Commandments!
- Plus, he tacked one more,
  - “love your neighbor as yourself,”
- which is from Leviticus 19.

So, the Jewish people believed that the Ten Commandments...

- embodied the whole Torah.

So Jesus is in effect saying...

- the man must keep the whole law.

Verse 20:

### **MATTHEW 19:20**

[20] The young man said to him, “All these I have kept. What do I still lack?”

## EXPLAIN: I HAVE KEPT

Now, this guy is a young adult,

- probably 21 to 28 years old.
- that's likely what that word **young** means.

But he answers Jesus litany of commandments by saying,

- *“Jesus, I keep the commandments!”*

And some say,

- *“What pride...what hubris!*
- *Obviously this guy hasn't kept all these commands.”*

And that's probably true.

But I think we should give this young man the benefit of the doubt. Why?

Because Jesus gives no indication that he disbelieves the man.

## POINT 1: BE

So, this young man is actually rich in two ways.

But, Jesus is trying to show that he has invested in the wrong RICHES.

- The first way he's rich is that he has MORAL RICHES.

He's trying to **SLIDE BE GOOD ENOUGH**

And that's what Jesus hits first.

**There are some riches we use to try to EARN our way to God.**

And that's what this guy does with his MORAL RICHES...

He's trying to BE GOOD ENOUGH!

- So, let's just assume that this guy is actually...
- REALLY GOOD at keeping the commandments. Ok?

To the man's statement,

- *"all these I have kept,"*
- Jesus doesn't say, *"No you haven't!"*

So, let's just assume that if we knew this guy we might say of him:

- *He's a really good guy.*
- *Man, he loves his friends and family.*
- *He serves.*
- *He's generous.*
- *He's kind.*
- *He's full of integrity.*
  - *I'm sure he's not perfect,*
- *but this guy is pretty legit!*
- *He's probably GOOD ENOUGH!*

And what's more,

- he's humble enough to admit...
- there's something he still lacks!

This is astounding!

But note: **there's still something still gnawing deep down in his soul...**

- he's lacking something...
- but he doesn't know what it is.

**And that's the problem with MORAL RICHES...**

**you just never know if you have BEEN GOOD ENOUGH!**



## TRANSITION

So, he goes to Jesus.

- And he's essentially like,
  - *"Look at how good I am!"*
    - *I don't smoke...*
    - *I don't drink...*
    - *I don't cuss...*
    - *I don't watch rated R movies...*
      - *except that one about you!*
  - *Look at all my moral wealth!*
  - *What am I still missing?*
  - *What do I need to BE GOOD ENOUGH?"*

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## TRANSITION

And Jesus' response is astounding.

- He shows him, not that he is lacking some SMALL thing...no.
- He shows him that he has missed the WHOLE thing.

Verse 21:

### MATTHEW 19:21

[21] Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

## POINT 2: DO

And here we find out the second way this young man is rich.

- This guy was RICH MORALLY
- AND he was RICH FINANCIALLY...
  - That means he had achieved!

And it's the second place where he has invested in the wrong RICHES.

You see, you can invest in BEING GOOD ENOUGH.

But you can also try to **SLIDE DO GOOD ENOUGH**

This is about:

- Success...
- Achievement...
- Accolades...
  - Performing...
  - Accomplishing...
  - Winning!

Now, it doesn't hit us so much today...

- But, in the Old Testament,
  - specifically in the Proverbs,
- wealth was a sign of blessing.
  - It was a sign of hard work...
  - And honest dealings...
  - And God's pleasure on you.

So, what the text is setting up...

- is that this rich young man is not only MORAL...
- but he's also an upstanding worker,
  - achiever,
  - and earner!

And any religious leader would say,

- *“Yes, this is the kind of guy I’m looking for!”*
- *“This is the kind of guy I want on my team.”*

We’d love this dude. That’s what I’m trying to say!

- He’s got MORALS and ACCOMPLISHMENTS!
- Lock this dude in!
- We want him on our team!

But Jesus challenges him.

- I mean, this is wild! It’s astonishing!

Jesus pushes on the two areas where he’s rich...where he has invested.

- He pushes on where he’s trying to BE GOOD ENOUGH.
  - His MORALITY...
- AND he pushes on where he’s trying to DO GOOD ENOUGH.
  - His ACTIVITY...

## **EXPLAIN: MONEY**

Now, Jesus centers on MONEY because that is THIS man’s idol...

But it doesn’t always have to look like money!

You can try to DO GOOD ENOUGH in many ways...

- You can point to how you parent...
  - *I’m a GOOD mom!*
- You can point to how you treat your spouse...
  - *I’m a GOOD husband!*
- You can point to how hard you work...
- You can point to how successful you’ve been...
- You can point to what others think of you...
- You can point to how much you’ve sacrificed...

- Anything that makes you feel secure and competent...
- as you look toward the future is what you are rich in.

It's what you rely on to know if you're GOOD ENOUGH!

And for this young man, it was money.

- Money was one of his core idols.
- It's how he knew he was DOING GOOD ENOUGH.

And that's because...

Money is a form of power that quickly replaces our sense of need for God.

It's what you begin to rely on.

- Money offers you control.
- Money promises you security.
  - It tells you that there's no tragedy
  - tomorrow can bring
  - that you can't handle.

But, it can keep you from fully trusting Jesus.

So, Jesus pushes, and says to the man:

- *You wanna be perfect?*
- *Go, sell what you possess and give to the poor,*
- *and you will have treasure in heaven.*

## APPLICATION: MORAL RICHES

Jesus is saying:

- *"if you want to inherit eternal life:*
- *You've gotta let go of your riches!*
- *Those riches are keeping you from me."*

And, Jesus tackles both

- His MORALITY and his ACTIVITY...
  - BEING GOOD ENOUGH
  - and DOING GOOD ENOUGH...

Because they're both, in essence, him trying to EARN on his own.

### POINT 3: ENOUGH

And that's where we find the Gospel in this story:

#### **SLIDE JESUS IS ENOUGH**

Jesus says: "Give it all away AND *come, follow me.*"

And this is Jesus pushing back on the man's first question:

- *what GOOD deed must I DO to have eternal life?*
  - "Stop investing in..."
  - *BEING GOOD ENOUGH...morality...*
  - *DOING GOOD ENOUGH...activity...*
  - *and instead...follow me...trust in my goodness.*
  - *Trust that I AM ENOUGH!"*

And this is so applicable for us, today, church!

Cause we just think that we need to BE a little better...to DO a little better.

- But Jesus is absolutely blunt here:
  - Get rid of your BEING and DOING...and...

■ *Come, follow me.*

You see, this is fundamental: **getting to God is not a matter of goodness.**

**GOOD people don't go to heaven!**

- Cause nobody can BE good enough!
  - Nobody can DO good enough!
- You can't EARN this!

## EXPLAIN: 10 COMMANDMENTS

If anyone could've, it was this guy.

Remember, we're assuming he was a very morally upright person.

But Jesus essentially tests him...he says:

- *“Ok, you say you keep the commandments?”*
  - *Well, how about one I didn't mention?*
  - *The first commandment.*
  - ***Have no other gods before me.***
- *Let's try that one out:*
  - *Will you sell everything and follow me?*
  - *Will you put yourself in a place where you have nothing,*
    - *and trust that I am enough?”*

See, what he's showing us is

- **BEING GOOD...your MORALS...**
  - **can actually be a god you put before him!**
- **And DOING GOOD...you ACTIVITIES...**
  - **can also be a god you put before him!**

**And any god you put before him...is an IDOL...a FALSE god.**

- This guy thinks he's almost GOOD ENOUGH!
- But Jesus is showing him that no one's GOOD ENOUGH!

*“No one keeps the commandments!*

- *Nobody loves God with heart, soul, mind, strength.*
- *Nobody loves their neighbor as themselves.*

*No one is good.*

- *And you even know that...*
  - *that's why you're coming to me*
  - *asking about what you still lack.*

- *You have to let go of EVERYTHING.*
  - *Your morals and your money.*
  - *Your performance and your possessions.*
  - *Your BEING GOOD.*
  - *And your DOING GOOD!*
    - *Cause neither of those will EARN you eternal life!*
- *You have to surrender EVERYTHING...*
  - *and that's the only way to gain everything!"*

Now, verse 22:

## **MATTHEW 19:22**

**[22] When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.**

## **EXPLAIN**

And there's the tragedy.

- I think the hardest part of this story for me
- is seeing this young man walk away from Jesus!

That's why I want to talk to him.

- What advice would you give your 21-year-old self?
  - *Stop trusting in yourself!*
  - *Get rid of it all!*
  - *Do whatever it takes!*
  - *Invest in Jesus.*
  - *Follow Jesus.*
  - *He's worth it!*
  - *He's enough!*

But the rich young man... **he went away sorrowful**. He walked away.

And the disciples are shocked!

Verse 23:

### **MATTHEW 19:23-25**

**[23] And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. [24] Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." [25] When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"**

The disciples are like,

- *"Wait a minute!*
- *If he's out...*
- *then who in the world could be in?!?"*

Verse 26:

### **MATTHEW 19:26**

**[26] But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."**

### **POINT: SURRENDER**

What we see here...

- is that following Jesus Christ is different...
- from any other religion or way imaginable!



This young man had built his life on GOOD things! That's every religion!

- He walked the straight and narrow path in his MORALITY.
- He walked the straight and narrow path with his ACTIVITY.

And he just thinks he's lacking one thing...

**But Jesus reveals that he has been on the wrong path the whole time!**

- You can't BE GOOD ENOUGH to get on this path.
- You can't DO GOOD ENOUGH to get on this path.

You've gotta acknowledge that JESUS IS ENOUGH...

And the only way onto the path...is to **SLIDE SURRENDER ALL OF IT**

- SURRENDER ALL OF IT...
- and FOLLOW CHRIST.

And that's why I have verses 27-30 read over us this morning.

### **MATTHEW 19:27-30**

[27] Then Peter said in reply, "See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" [28] Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. [29] And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. [30] But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

### **EXPLAIN: REAL RICHES**

- The call of Jesus is to **leave EVERYTHING!**
- That's how you **inherit eternal life!**

Jim Elliott, the great missionary martyr famously said,

**SLIDE** *“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep...  
to gain what he cannot lose.”*

Your BEING GOOD and your DOING GOOD...

- those are RICHES you can NEVER KEEP,
- but Jesus has an eternal inheritance you can NEVER LOSE.

And you can only get true riches by SURRENDERING and following him!

- It's not about BEING GOOD ENOUGH...
- or DOING GOOD ENOUGH...

It's about FOLLOWING the only one who was GOOD ENOUGH.

- Jesus doesn't want your MORALITY...
- Jesus doesn't want your ACTIVITY...

He wants you to **SLIDE W/PADS SURRENDER ALL OF IT**

## CONCLUSION

And, here's how I know that...

- There is a parallel passage in the Gospel of Mark.
- And Mark has one VERY IMPORTANT detail
- that Matthew does not...

I'll put it up Mark 10 starting in verse 20:

### **SLIDE MARK 10:20–21**

[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.”

## EXPLAIN: LOVED HIM

And that one detail, **Jesus looked at him and loved him.**

That right there is the true **SLIDE RICHES**

Jesus loved this young man. And that's why he tells him the hard truth!

- And notice the order in which it happens.
  - Jesus LOVED this guy.
  - And THEN he told him,
    - **"sell it all and come, follow me."**
- He doesn't say,
  - *"Here's what you need to do.*
    - *Sell it all...*
    - *Follow me...*
  - *And THEN you'll have earned my love."*

● **No, he just looks at him and loves him...**

● **before he ever asks anything from him.**

Listen to me church,

● **Jesus NEVER asks of you...BEFORE he loves you.**

And that's why this story is so tragic...

THAT'S WHAT THIS YOUNG MAN IS WALKING AWAY FROM!

- **What do I need to DO to have eternal life?**
  - *You don't have to DO anything!*
  - *You don't have to BE anything!*
  - *I already love you.*
  - *I've always loved you.*
  - *And all this BEING & DOING...*
    - *all this EARNING...*
  - *it's just pushing you further and further away from me.*

- *SURRENDER ALL OF IT!*
- *LET GO OF IT!*
- *SELL IT ALL!*
- *Invest in me!*

## APPLICATION

Oh, my friends, don't you see? We're all the rich young man!  
Some of you need to remember that this morning!

He's not waiting for you to GET GOOD ENOUGH...

No...he looks at you...and he loves you...

- **And all you have to DO is STOP DOING!**
- SURRENDER and FOLLOW.
  - **Only then will you stop DOING to EARN his love...**
  - **and instead you'll DO BECAUSE of his love!**

## ILLUSTRATION: ME

And gosh, do I struggle with this personally!

- I am an Enneagram 3...you know the Enneagram?
  - Some of you are into this...
  - and some of you think it's demonic, alright?
- But the 3 is sometimes called The Performer or The Achiever.

And in my own journey,

- one reason why this is such a wrestle for me,
- is because I perform...I achieve...
  - Man, I just love to DO,
  - and accomplish,
  - and kill it...

And I'm like:

- *"God, watch me..."*
- *God, watch this...*
  - *Are you watching?*
- *God, aren't you proud?*
- *God, look what I can do!"*

And it's far easier for me to believe that I'm useful, rather than I'm loved.

## ENDING

But he looked at him and he loved him.

Hey, do you know that Jesus loves you?

Some of you need to remember this...

For others, maybe you've heard the message *Jesus loves you* in the past.

- But today it's making sense to you for the first time.
  - HE LOVES YOU!
  - and HE WANTS YOU!
- And you want to SURRENDER IT ALL to him.

Just tell him...in your heart and with your mouth...pray to him:

- *I need you.*
- *I've not been good enough.*
- *I trust in Jesus' goodness.*
- *I'll follow you!*

That's the investment in TRUE RICHES!

- Jesus looked at him and loved him.
- You give up nothing when you give up everything...

With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

Let's pray.

## RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – [fathomchurch.org/give](http://fathomchurch.org/give)
- PRAYER - [fathomchurch.org/prayer](http://fathomchurch.org/prayer)
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

### 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.

## RESOURCES CONSULTED:

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- Keller, Tim. *Greed: The Case of the Rich Young Ruler*.
- Osborne, Grant R. Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Matthew.