

Southside Baptist Church  
Sunday Morning 12/04/22  
"Why Was The Rich Young Ruler so Poor?"  
Romans 7:7  
Matthew 19:16-22

1. Introduction:
  - a. Paul wrote the book of Romans to two groups — Legalistic Jews and Ex-Pagan Gentiles
    - 1) Both believed in salvation by religion and good works,
    - 2) Like millions of people believe today.
  - b. The book of Romans seeks to explain what salvation is,
    - 1) But more importantly, what salvation *is not*,
  - c. To do this Paul explains salvation very simply:
    - 1) We all sin and deserve God's wrath,
    - 2) And forgiveness of sin requires a blood sacrifice,
    - 3) And that sacrifice comes through Jesus,
  - d. That's why Paul says, **"For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified..."** (1 Corinthians 1:22-23 NKJV)
2. So to help us recognize our sin God gave us rules to live by,
  - a. These are His Commandments – What we call the "Law"
    - 1) Either the Biblical Law
    - 2) Or the "law" of our conscience,
  - b. But mankind broke God's law and ate the forbidden fruit,
    - 1) Sending the world into a tailspin of disobedience,
    - 2) That requires God's forgiveness,
  - c. But the law itself has no power to forgive our disobedience,
    - 1) It is there to point out our sin,
    - 2) So that we can understand our need for a Redeemer,
3. But mankind began to view adherence to the law as a source of salvation,
  - a. Resulting in the false belief that you can be good enough or religious enough to earn redemption,
    - 1) This deception is our enemy's greatest weapon — By convincing you that you can do enough on your own,
    - 2) But the Bible is very clear, ***Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight...*** (Romans 3:20 NKJV)
  - b. So Paul helps his readers understand their sinful state by pointing out a sin we all commit – *Coveting*.
    - 1) ***"I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."*** (Romans 7:7b NKJV)
    - 2) In other words, we all covet. Which means we've all broken the law,

- a) Which means we cannot earn salvation through "works" by keeping the law,
  - b) Which means salvation must come from some other way...
4. To illustrate this, Jesus recorded a conversation between Him and a rich young ruler – (Matthew 19:16-22)
- a. A religious man who felt he adhered perfectly to the Law,
  - b. And yet, he approached Jesus to see what else "...I..." need to "...do...".
  - c. But he didn't find confirmation that he had earned salvation,
  - d. Instead, Jesus pointed out the sin of coveting. Which meant he had not kept the law.
  - e. So the young man went away sorrowful.
    - 1) Not because he would lose his wealth if he followed Jesus,
    - 2) But, because he realized that focusing on "...**what good thing shall I do...**" was worthless,
  - f. But Jesus didn't want the young man to give away his riches,
    - 1) Jesus wanted him to get his priorities straight – And realize he couldn't earn salvation on his own.
    - 2) Because the young man was focused on "...I..." and "...do..." and a "...**good thing...**", rather than focusing on Jesus.
5. That's the same mistake millions of people make today,
- 1) They have been deceived into believing they can be religious enough or good enough to earn God's redemption,
  - 2) Yet, like the rich young ruler, they ignore the role of Jesus as the only Redeemer,
6. So...if salvation does not come through religion or works, then how are we justified in God's eyes?
- a. Through faith in Christ alone and His sacrifice and resurrection,
  - b. That's why Jesus said, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life. NO ONE comes to the Father except through Me.**" (John 14:6)
  - c. That's what the young man missed – The fact that Jesus, not works or religion, is the door through which we must go,
  - d. As Peter said in Acts 4:12,
    - "...**for there is no other name under heaven — given among men — by which we must be saved.**"
    - 1) Salvation comes through a personal relationship with Jesus.
    - 2) Made possible by His offering on the cross,
    - 3) And by nothing else,
7. But if you don't have that relationship with Jesus, you will be judged by:
- a. Your own works — On the earth,
  - b. Instead of the work of Jesus — On the cross,
  - c. And you will be found guilty of rejecting Him.

