

The Terre Haute

SPEAKER

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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THE RICH RULER

Aude McKee

Read with me the account of a young man with great possibilities, but who failed when the opportunity to follow Jesus came his way. The story is taken from Mark 10:17-22:

“And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, do not kill, do not steal, do not bear false witness, defraud not, honor thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.”

Observe these points:

HE RAN TO JESUS. Here was a man eager to meet Jesus. No doubt he had heard of this Jew from Nazareth and had

been impressed with His miracles and teaching. Reader, how do you measure up to this young man in this regard?

HE KNEELED. We are forced to say that he was a humble man. He did not come to instruct Jesus. He was not there with some pet theories of his own to impart to Jesus. He recognized that he had a need and that Jesus could fill that need. But as you consider his humility, it was a little unusual. The man was a ruler, a rich man, and no doubt moved among the elite of his day. On the other hand, the One before whom he kneeled was extremely poor (Jesus did not even have a place to lay His head, Mt. 8:20), He was a lowly Galilean — *“Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?”* — John 1:46, and His step-father was a carpenter.

HE CAME OPENLY. The man had courage. He didn't try to conceal his need, nor did he try to disguise the fact that he recognized Jesus was the answer to his problem. He did not seek a private interview; he didn't slip in at night. He was not ashamed for the world to know that he had a need that his power and possessions could not fill!

A MAN OF DISCERNMENT. He addressed Jesus as *“Good Master”* which probably implies that he had been impressed with

the Lord's reputation, he had been perhaps amazed at the miracles he had seen or heard about, and the teaching of Jesus had made a profound impact upon his life. But still, Jesus' rebuke of his use of the word *“good”* helps us to see that he did not recognize Jesus as the divine Son of God. Jesus told him that *“there is none good but God”* and since He (Jesus) was God (divine, Jn. 1:1), He is saying to the ruler, *“Don't call Me 'Good' until you recognize Me to be divine.”* However, we need to hasten to add that Jesus' reputation enhanced His ability to serve. Did you ever hear a member of the church say, *“I don't care what anyone thinks about me; It's what I am that really counts”*? What you are counts, to be sure, but at the same time, your opportunities for serving your fellowman and assisting him to find the Lord will depend greatly on what other people think of you. In connection with this remember the words of Paul: *“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient...”* (1 Cor. 10:23).

A SPIRITUAL MINDED MAN. This rich ruler was not interested in his own healing or that of his relatives and friends, he was not concerned about politics, social reform, or financial advice. He was concerned about his soul! He wanted to go to heaven when he had finished his journey here on

earth, and so he asked, “*What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?*” No greater question can occupy the mind of man!

AN UPRIGHT MAN. All the commandments Jesus laid before him he said he had kept from his youth up. No doubt he could be compared in this respect to Cornelius of Acts 10:1-2. He was as fine a moral man as could be found anywhere, but this story emphasizes the fact that good moral people need to come to grips with the same question that the most wicked have to face — “*WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?*” Morality alone does not save!

A SINCERE MAN. Jesus beheld him and loved him, the record says. He must have told the truth about his conduct and his quest for an answer to his question must have come from the heart. Jesus loves all people but He was especially attracted to this young man. What a fine and noble man he was.

UNABLE TO MEET THE SUPREME TEST. “*One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give*

to the poor...” Now, with that requirement before him, he went away grieved. Jesus asked him to sacrifice the present for the future, but he sacrificed the future for the present! Good reader, how badly do you want to go to heaven? Nothing can stand between your soul and the Saviour! The Lord will *not* take second place.

THE SAD WORD — *ALMOST*

Robert Jackson

We read about a man in the 26th chapter of the book of Acts who spoke these words: “*Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.*” The word “*almost*” is indeed a very sad word. It is sad in this case, for we never read where the man ever obeyed the Lord. He was almost saved. Why was he almost saved, and not altogether saved?

IT WAS NOT THE FAULT OF THE PREACHER. The preacher on this occasion was the beloved Paul. He was speaking as the Spirit gave him utterance. Nothing could be

wrong with what he said nor the manner in which it was delivered. It is true that often times we have some preachers who drive people away from the truth, but not so upon this occasion.

IT WAS NOT WHAT WAS PREACHED. The truth is the only thing that can save one (Jn. 17:17). This was all that was delivered to Agrippa upon this great occasion.

IT WAS SOLELY THE FAULT OF THE MAN. There was no way that he could blame the preacher. He could not blame the truth. His fault was the fact that he just rejected the opportunity. This is sad. Jesus said time and time again that now is the time to prepare for eternity. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 6:1-2, “*Now is the day of salvation.*” Jesus was not fooling about what He said, nor was Paul.

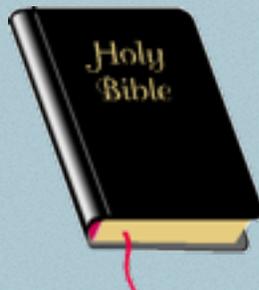
My friend, I beg of you not to be in that sad number that was almost saved. Think about it now — now is the time to obey God.

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We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

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