

## The Mistakes Of The Rich Young Ruler

Matthew 19:16-22

## The Mistakes Of The Rich Young Ruler

1. Who was he?
2. His hopeful question.
3. Jesus' unexpected reply.
4. His sad departure.

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## The Mistakes Of The Rich Young Ruler

1. Who this young man was.

### From the world's point of view:

- He was young. —*"the young man."* (Mt.. 19:20, 22)
- He was a ruler. —*"a certain ruler"* (Lk. 18:18)
- He had wealth. (*"great possessions"* -Mt.. 19:22) (*"he was very rich"*-Lk. 18:23) However, he was *"not rich toward God."* (Lk. 12:21)

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1. Who this young man was.

### From heaven's viewpoint:

- He was an earnest man, (He came *"running"* to Jesus -Mk. 10:17)
- He was an humble man. (He came *"kneeling"* - Mk. 10:17)
- He was a reverent man. (He addressed Jesus as *"Good Master"* (KJV) -Mt.. 19:16)
- He was an honorable man. (He said, *"All these things have I kept from my youth up."* (Mt.. 19:20)

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"What lack I yet?"

But morality alone is not sufficient in God's sight. (Jno. 14:6; Acts 4:12; 10:1-2)

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2. The young man's hopeful question.

Two questions — (Mt.. 19:16, 20)

- *"What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"* (cf. Micah 6:7-8)
- *"What lack I yet?"* (cf. Jno. 17:3)

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3. Jesus' unexpected reply. (Mt.. 19:21)

Jesus made a twofold demand of him:

- *"If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven" (KJV) (cf. 1 Jno. 5:21)*
- *"And come and follow me." (cf. Mt.. 16:24)*

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4. The young man's sad departure. (Mt.. 19:22)

- *"His countenance fell at the saying... (Mk. 10:22)*
- *"He went away sorrowful; for he was one that had great possessions."*
- Not because the Master had been unkind to him.
- He tried to hold on to the treasures of both worlds. (Mt.. 6:24; cf. Mt. 16:26; 1 Tim. 6:9ff; 17ff; Mk. 4:19)

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Conclusion:

- Note the words of Jesus to His disciples immediately following this incident. (Mt.. 19:23-24)
- Then the disciples *"were astonished exceedingly, saying, Who then can be saved?"* (Mt.. 19:25)
- Anyone can who will. (Jno. 6:37; Rev. 22:17)

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## "What must I do that I may have eternal life ?

- The Lord would not command that you keep the law. (Rom. 6:15; Col. 2:14)
- While on earth Jesus forgave sins as He pleased, but now that He has gone back to heaven, He has left one plan. (Rom. 1:16; Mk. 16:15-16)

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## "What must I do that I may have eternal life ?

So today the Lord commands you:

- To believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 16:31; Heb. 11:6; Jno. 8:24)
- To repent of your sins. (Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30)
- To confess the name of Jesus. (Mt.. 10:32; Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:9-10)
- To be baptized for the remission of sins. (Mt.. 28:19; Acts 2:38; 22:16)

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- Mt. 19:16
  - **Rich Young Ruler Began Well.**
  - **Earnest.** – came "running" to Jesus.
  - **Humble.** – came "kneeling" Mk. 10:17
  - **Reverent.** – "Good Master" (KJV) "Teacher" (ASV)
  - **Honorable.** -- Mt. 19:20 "All these things have I observed: what lack I yet?"
- "Teacher, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?"

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➤ Mt. 19:21

"If thou wouldest be perfect, go, sell that which thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me."

➤ Ended with a sad departure.

➤ Mt. 19:22 "...he went away sorrowful; for he was one that had great possessions."

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