The Mistakes Of The Rich Young Ruler

Matthew 19:16-22

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

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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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"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)

"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
"Teacher, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?"

- 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?"
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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."

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

Ended with a sad departure.