



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## The Rich Young Ruler

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### Matthew 19:16-26

**16** And someone came to Him and said, “Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?” **17** And He said to him, “Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” (19:16-17 NASB)

A young ruler (v20 & Lk. 18:18) approaches Jesus with a desire to learn what he must do to obtain eternal life. The young ruler calls Him ‘Teacher’ or ‘Good Master’ (KJV), conceding that Jesus is good. Jesus responds with a statement intended to confirm His deity, so that the man understands who is answering the question. Jesus makes the statement, ‘keep the commandments;’ knowing that the man believes his life is in order.

Jesus began where this young man was; the young man was seeking righteousness through the law and Jesus was moving him to a new understanding.

**18** Then he said to Him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT 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.” **20** The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?” **21** Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” **22** But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property. (19:18-22)

Jesus told him to keep the commandments, not because the Law saves, but because the understanding of his sinful nature through his inability to keep the Law draws him short of completeness. Jesus then tells the ruler to sell all that he has,

give it to the poor and follow Him. While the Lord first cites the commandments that deal with our relationship with others, Jesus is leading and directing his thought to his relationship with God.

While the young man may have outwardly appeared to have kept the law, he could not have kept them perfectly as required by God. He gave his response by walking away and placing his property/wealth god before the One True God.

**“You shall have no other gods before Me.” (Ex.20:3)**

Why did Jesus tell him to sell his possessions and give them to the poor? This would not have saved him, but it did expose the young ruler to the real problem, that he was covetous and a sinner in need of a savior.

**23** And Jesus said to His disciples, “Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. **24** “Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” **25** When the disciples heard this, they were very astonished and said, “Then who can be saved?” **26** And looking at them Jesus said to them, “With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”(19:23-26)

The disciples were confused because, in their culture, wealth was viewed as a blessing or evidence of being in God’s favor. The disciples then asked the right question, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus responds with divine grace; that it’s not who you are; what you have or what you do but rather placing Him first through what God does for us when He says; “**With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.**” (19:26)

### ***For Your Consideration:***

- Like the young ruler, do you put wealth, power, success ... any ‘god’ before God?
- Are you walking toward God or away from His grace and mercy found in Jesus Christ?

## BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAYS (SESSION OR HEARING DAYS) AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44

STATE STAFF AND LOBBYIST: WEDNESDAYS AT 12:10PM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44