

Sunday Morning Message

July 29, 2018

The Rich Young Ruler

Topic – Salvation

Text – Matthew 19:16 – 30; Mark 10:17 – 31; Luke 18:27 – 30

Congregational Reading – Matthew 19:16 - 19

Introduction

The message today is a salvation message. In the passages that we will be studying this morning, Jesus will clearly teach us how a person is saved or how a person can know for sure that he or she is going to Heaven when they die. The most important principle that any person can learn in this life is how to be saved:

"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." (1 John 5:11-13)

Turn to Matthew 19

Jesus prefaces this account of the rich young ruler with a wonderful truth regarding children. (Matthew 19:13 – 15) Mark's gospel adds to this account by telling us that Jesus stated:

"Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." (Mark 10:15)

Salvation can only come through childlike faith, simple trust in the Lord.

Read Matthew 19:16 - 30

In this passage we have a wealthy young ruler coming to the Lord Jesus inquiring about everlasting life. His question is actually "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" In his question, we can see his problem, and we also can see the problem that most people in the world have regarding this subject. In his question we can see that this young man was dependent upon himself. He wanted to know what he could do. In his mind, his salvation was to be dependent upon wholly upon himself and his good works.

Notice - He did not ask the question "What must I do to be saved?" as the Philippian jailor asked in Acts 16:32. There is a very subtle difference in the questions. The Philippian jailor was completely helpless, but this rich ruler was not, and until you get to the place where you are completely helpless and understand that you are at the complete mercy of God, you cannot be saved. Salvation is of God. It comes completely through dependence (or faith) in Him, and it is apart from any good works on the part of the receiver.

"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." - (Acts 16:31)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." - (John 3:16)

"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." - (1 John 5:12)

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." - (Ephesians 2:8-9)

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" - (Romans 10:9-15)

Jesus is going to prove to this young ruler (and to us) that he cannot possibly earn his salvation, because he could never do enough to "inherit" it or earn it.

I Jesus Teaches The Young Man That Perfection Is Required (Matthew 19:17 - 22)

He is revealing the young man's need

A Notice in v. 18 - Jesus reveals that the young man did not really know Who he was talking to.

B Notice in vs. 19 - 20 - that this fact is further brought out by the young man's insistence that he has done "all" of the commandments that Jesus mentioned, which he had not; could not. Neither can we.

Turn to Romans 3:10 - 23

You must know that you are lost, before you can be saved. You must see your need. You must realize that you are a hell deserving sinner, and that you are utterly dependent upon God. You have no hope at all on your own.

Turn to Luke 18:9 – 14 – The Pharisee in this story thought he was righteous in himself and he thought he was superior to the “sinner” in the passage. Yet, Jesus said the sinner went away justified. In order to be saved, you have to recognize that you are a sinner.

II Jesus Teaches the Disciples Two Great Principles (Matthew 19:23 – 26)

A It is very hard for people to stop trusting in themselves.

Jesus specifically talks here about rich people; but the same principle can be applied to smart people, or powerful people. (vs. 23 - 25) Pride must be abased. Faith is dependence and it is extremely hard for proud people to stop depending on themselves.

B In order for someone to be saved, it will take a supernatural act of God. (v. 26)

Salvation by good works is an impossibility, because no man is good.

"They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." (Romans 3:12)

III Jesus Teaches the Disciples (and us) that Reward Follows Discipleship (Matthew 19:27 - 30)

You do not get saved by obeying commandments, but obedience (discipleship) is the will of God for all those who do trust Him as Savior.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." - (Ephesians 2:10)

"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." - (1 Corinthians 6:20)

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." - (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Conclusion

Are you saved?

Have you come to the place where you have realized that you are a helpless sinner, totally incapable of saving yourself and desperately in need of a Saviour?

If you are saved, Are you surrendered to Christ and serving Him with your life? Are you a disciple of Christ?

Jesus promises here in this passage that every sacrifice that you make for the Lord – every hour that you serve Him, and every dollar that you give Him, will be returned an hundredfold. That sounds like a pretty good investment to me.