



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- A very sincere, religious young man came to Jesus to inquire about the means of living forever!
- Now, who in this room does not want to live forever?
- Every person that I have ever met in my life wants to love forever!

- **Matthew 19:16**

*And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have **eternal life?***

- All the gospels tell us that this man was rich, for therein is the point of the story.

- But only Matthew says that he was young (Matthew 19:20);

- And only Luke says that he was a ruler (Luke 18:18).

- This story teaches one of the deepest of all lessons for it has within it the whole basis of the difference between the right and the wrong idea of what religion is.

- The man who came to Jesus was seeking for what he called eternal life.
 - He was seeking for
 - Happiness,
 - Peace with God.
 - But his very way of phrasing his question betrays him.

- He asks,
"What must I do?"
- He is thinking
in terms of actions.
- He is like the Pharisees;
thinking in terms of
keeping rules
and
regulations.

- He is thinking of piling up a credit balance-sheet with God by keeping the works of the law.

- Our lesson for today looks at this rich young ruler in the positive and the negative.
- 1st the positive

- Let us notice what he had in his favor.
- # 1 A fine temperament.
- His whole dealing with Christ revealed it.

- # 2 Keen discernment.
 - He called Jesus "good Master."
 - He recognized in Jesus something far above the ordinary.

- # 3 He had courage.
- He was a ruler of the Jews.
 - At this time,
the rulers
were opposed to Jesus.
 - For him to
come and kneel
took courage.

- # 4 He was humble.
- Rulers did not kneel before peasants, and Jesus was considered a peasant.

- # 5 He had a good record.
- When Jesus repeated the commandments.
 - He could answer *"all these have I kept."*

- **# 6** He was a great moralist.
 - Then he asked,
"*What good thing must I do.*"
 - To paraphrase
"*What other*
"*good things*"
must I do?
 - So typical of those
who look to good works
to gain eternal life.

- There are many false views concerning salvation!
 - Works,
 - Faith only,
 - Birthright,
 - Denomination,
 - etc.

- # 7 He had good aspirations as he desired eternal life.
- He recognized something in Jesus.
- And he was drawn to Him.

- **Now the negative.**

- WHAT HE DIDN'T HAVE.
- # 1 He did not have eternal life.
 - He was not "*born again.*"
 - You can be a very good person and not be saved.
 - Good people often find it harder to be saved than bad people.

- **# 2** He didn't have **completeness in his life.**
- There was still **a conscious void in his life**
- All his **wealth** and **moral goodness** **could not fill it.**
- With all these things he asked, **"What lack I yet?"**

- **# 3** He clearly knows nothing of **a religion of grace.**
- So Jesus tries to lead him **on to a correct view.**
- How many people today are like this young ruler **who know nothing of God's requirements?**

- He tells him to keep the commandments.
- As they are living under the law of Moses.
- The young man asks what kind of commandments?
- Jesus cites five of the ten commandments.

- The young man's answers that he had kept the commandments;
 - And yet there was still something missing.
 - So Jesus told him to sell all he had and give it to the poor and follow him.

- **# 4** The young ruler does not realize **that his riches have become his god.**
- But **Jesus** knows this.
 - **Exodus 34:14**
For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD is a jealous God:

- Too many are like
this young man.
- They become interested
in spiritual things
and when they
come face to face
with the Lord Jesus
they do not follow through.

- What a tragedy!

- So close,
yet so far away.

- Mark 12:34

**Thou art not far
from the kingdom of God.**

- Far too many people
miss Jesus everyday.

- There is only one way of salvation;
 - One way to miss Hell;
 - One way to Heaven.
 - One Lord!
 - One faith!
 - One Baptism!
 - Ephesians 4:4-5

- # 5 He like many had wrong ideas about the savior
- “*Good Master*”
- A great man, but not God!

- Any other view concerning Jesus but that He is 100% God and 100% man will never bring you to the place of salvation.

- John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,...*

- Anything less
makes Him
less than God

and you

less than saved!

- **Who** is Jesus to you?
(**Matthew 16:13-16**)

- # 6 He refused to acknowledge his sins
- “All these have I kept”
 - No Way!
- Salvation is always accompanied by:
 - Conviction of sins
(John 6:44; 16:8; 6:65)
 - Repentance of sins.
(Acts 2:37-38)
 - Baptism “for”
remission of sins.

- Sin can never be dealt with until it is brought out into the open.

- Genesis 3:9

“Adam, where art thou?”

- Proverbs 28:13

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper

- **The Savior is still seeking.**

- **Revelation 3:20**

***Behold, I stand at the door, and
knock:
if any man hear my voice,
and open the door,
I will come in to him, and will
sup with him,
and he with me.***

- # 7 He let pride
stand between him
and eternal salvation!
 - It is hard to
take that first step,
 - But that first step
can lead to a
new walk of life
that will end in Heaven.

- He was
“*Sorrowful....*
he had
great possessions!”
- No material possession;
 - No sin;
 - No pleasure;
 - No indulgence,
- is worth going to Hell over!

- God promises us more in return than we could ever give up.
 - Luke 12:32
It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
- Your life won't last forever,
 - But eternity will.

- Today is your decision day,

- Tomorrow may be too late.

- 2 Corinthians 6:2

**Now is the accepted time;
behold, now is the
day of salvation**

- Isaiah 55:7

Let the wicked forsake his way,

- *and the unrighteous man his thoughts:*

- *and let him return unto the LORD,*

- *and he will have mercy upon him;*

- *for he will abundantly pardon. .*

- What will you do with Jesus?

- What is your excuse?

- What do you lack?

- **Almost** is a sad word in anybody's dictionary.
- A word that smacks of **missed opportunities** and fumbled chances.
 - **Tim McKee** was edged out for first place **in the Olympic 400-meter race** **by two-thousandths** **of a second** in the **1972** Olympics.
- He **almost** won a gold medal.

- The time difference was variously calculated as
- One-tenth of the time of a typical blink of a human eye,
- Or the the thickness of a coat of paint,
- But he still lost!

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_McKee)

- Our lesson focuses for today has been about an “almost” kind of guy.
 - He was the big one that got away.
 - He met Jesus and hovered on the brink of commitment.
- He almost claimed Jesus as the Lord of his life.
 - But almost is not good enough.

- **Matthew 19:16**

***Good Master,
what good thing
shall I do,
that I may have
eternal life?***

- It is the most wanted commodity on earth,
in the 1st
or
the 21st century.

- The rich young ruler had everything in the world

- Except
- what he wanted most
 - Eternal life.

- **The Savior is still seeking.**

- **Revelation 3:20**

***Behold, I stand at the door,
and knock: if any man
hear my voice, and
open the door,
I will come in to him,
and will sup with him,
and he with me.***



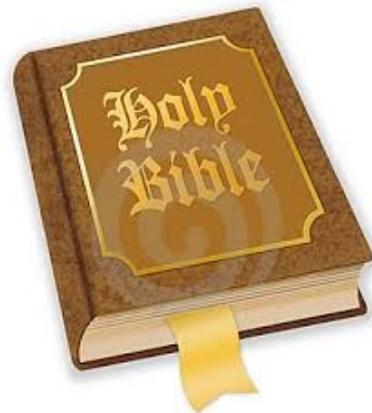
Have you answered the door?

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say**

“Come”.

Revelation 22:17



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