



Lesson 46 – “One Thing Thou Lackest”

Based on Matthew 19:16-22; Mark 10:17-22; Luke 18:18-23.

- 1) How does our lesson begin today?

Matthew 19:16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I _____, that I may have eternal life?

- 2) What had just happened previously?

Matthew 19:13-14 Then were there brought unto him little _____, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of _____.

The young man who asked this question was a ruler. He had great possessions and occupied a position of responsibility. He saw the love that Christ manifested toward the children brought to Him; he saw how tenderly He received them, and took them up in His arms, and his heart kindled with love for the Saviour. He felt a desire to be His disciple.

- 3) What was Jesus' reply to the young man?

Matthew 19:17-19 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me _____? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the _____. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as _____.

This ruler had a high estimate of his own righteousness. He did not really suppose that he was defective in anything, yet he was not altogether satisfied. He felt the want of something that he did not possess. Could not Jesus bless him as He blessed the little children, and satisfy his soul want?

- 4) How did the young man reply?

Matthew 19:20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what _____ I yet?

Christ looked into the face of the young man, as if reading his life and searching his character. He loved him, and He hungered to give him that peace and grace and joy which would materially change his character.

Jesus saw in this ruler just the help He needed if the young man would become a co-laborer with Him in the work of salvation. If he would place himself under Christ's guidance, he would be a power for good. In a marked degree the ruler could have represented Christ; for he possessed qualifications, which, if he were united with the Saviour, would enable him to become a divine force among men.

- 5) What was Jesus' Reply?

Matthew 19:21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have _____ in heaven: and come and follow me.



Christ read the ruler's heart. Only one thing he lacked, but that was a vital principle. He needed the love of God in the soul. This lack, unless supplied, would prove fatal to him; his whole nature would become corrupted. By indulgence, selfishness would strengthen. That he might receive the love of God; his supreme love of self must be surrendered.

The very holiness of God was offered to the young ruler. He had the privilege of becoming a son of God, and a coheir with Christ to the heavenly treasure. But he must take up the cross and follow the Saviour in the path of self-denial.

6) What challenge did Joshua give to the Children of Israel at the end of his life?

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my _____, we will serve the LORD.

The choice was left with the Young Ruler. Jesus was yearning for his conversion. He had shown him the plague spot in his character, and with what deep interest He watched the issue as the young man weighed the question! If he decided to follow Christ, he must obey His words in everything. He must turn from his ambitious projects.

7) What choice did the young man make?

Matthew 19:22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away _____: for he had great possessions.

He wanted the heavenly treasure, but he wanted also the temporal advantages his riches would bring him. He was sorry that such conditions existed; he desired eternal life, but he was not willing to make the sacrifice. The cost of eternal life seemed too great, and he went away sorrowfully.

His claim that he had kept the law of God was a deception. He showed that riches were his idol. He could not keep the commandments of God while the world was first in his affections. He loved the gifts of God more than he loved the Giver.

Thousands are passing through this ordeal, weighing Christ against the world; and many choose the world. Like the young ruler, they turn from the Saviour, saying in their hearts, I will not have this Man as my leader.

8) What did Jesus do next?

Matthew 19:23-24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the _____ of _____. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the _____ of a _____, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

There are different interpretations on what Jesus meant. Some attribute the Camel being a mistranslation that should read "rope". Others have said that there was a needle gate at Jerusalem that was small and when the traders came to the city with their camels laden down with wares, they had to unload their camel, squeeze them through, then bring in the supplies one at a time and reload the camel. The bigger point shouldn't be lost though, the only thing that we'll take to Heaven with us is our character and the blessings he gives us are meant to be shared.



9) How did the Disciples respond?

Matthew 19:25 When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be _____?

10) What was Jesus' response to their question?

Matthew 19:26 But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are _____.

11) What promise did Jesus make to the Disciples and us?

Matthew 19:29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit _____.

12) In a parable, Jesus gave us Words of hope, what are they?

Matthew 25:23 His lord said unto him, Well done, _____ and _____ servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

The joy of seeing souls redeemed, souls eternally saved, is the reward of all that put their feet in the footprints of Jesus.

The ruler's possessions were entrusted to him that he might prove himself a faithful steward; he was to dispense these goods for the blessing of those in need. So, God now entrusts men with means, with talents and opportunities, that they may be His agents in helping the poor and the suffering. He who uses his entrusted gifts as God designs becomes a co-worker with the Saviour. He wins souls to Christ, because he is a representative of His character.

13) What call did he make to His Disciples and to us now?

Matthew 4:19 And he saith unto them, _____ me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Can you see Jesus has the ability to peer into your soul?

Is there anything that is blocking your progress toward Him?

When is the time to lay that aside?

