The Rich Young Ruler

(Mark 10:17-22)

While Jesus was making His final trip to Jerusalem, a young, wealthy ruler rushed out to meet Him. He wanted to know what he needed to do to inherit eternal life? Unfortunately, he didn't like the answer given by the Lord.

What was his problem? Why did he depart from the Lord sad and in a lost condition? Why was he not on the heaven bound path?

I.	**He came to Jesus seeking to be <u>justified.</u>**
   A.	The rich young ruler did not understand that despite all of his good deeds, he was still harboring two sins in his life.
      1.	The first sin is obvious to us. It is greed. It is the turning of material riches into an idol (Mark 10:22).
      2.	The second sin is not as obvious to us. It is pride. It is unwillingness to acknowledge the need for the Lord's grace and forgiveness. This can be seen in how he asked his question to Jesus (Mark 10:17; Matthew 19:16).
      3.	He seemed to take pride in all the good things he had done in his life (Mark 10:18-20). He failed to understand that no matter how much good he did, he could not earn his way into heaven (Ephesians 2:8-9).
      4.	He should have come to Jesus with the attitude of the tax-collector, Zaccheus, and Peter (Luke18:13-14; 19:1-10; 5:8).
   B.	While obedience is certainly important, let us never forget that without God, we cannot be saved (Mark 10:23-27).

II.	**He was not willing to give his <u>heart.</u>**
   A.	This is the main thing that Jesus wanted from him.
      1.	Instead of trusting and following Jesus, the rich young ruler allowed a barrier to stand between him and the Lord (Mark 10:21-22).
      2.	He valued material riches over heavenly riches!
   B.	Let us never forget that the Lord demands to be first place in our lives (Matthew 6:33; 10:37; 16:26).

III.	**He was not different <u>than us.</u>**
   A.	Like us…
      1.	He was **<u>lacking</u>** (Mark 10:21).
      2.	He needed **<u>Jesus</u>** (Mark 10:27).
   B.	Only those who follow Jesus are truly heaven bound (John 14:6; 6:66-69).

Conclusion: Is there anything standing between **<u>me and Jesus</u>**?

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