

“Give it Away”

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Mark 10:17-31

- 17 *And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?*
- 18 *And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.*
- 19 *Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honor thy father and mother.*
- 20 *And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.*
- 21 *Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.*
- 22 *And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.*
- 23 *And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!*
- 24 *And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!*
- 25 *It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.*
- 26 *And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?*
- 27 *And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.*
- 28 *Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.*
- 29 *And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,*
- 30 *But he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.*
- 31 *But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.*

We are going to talk about a fellow here tonight; the Lord being our helper. If you read Matthew's account, and if you read Luke's account, we can understand and see some things about this man. The first thing we can learn about him is that he is a young fellow. The Bible says in the book of Matthew chapter 19 that he is a young fellow. If we read the book of Luke chapter 18, we find out that this fellow is a ruler.

Therefore, we have a young, rich ruler; who is wealthy—I don't how rich he is so we will use the word "wealthy." He is coming to Jesus.

17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

Here Jesus is and He has just been talking to the disciples. We talked a little about last week the issues about marriage and divorce. He took the little children and put them in His arms and blessed them and so forth. As He is traveling, He begins to walk and here comes a fellow running.

I would say that the disciples, as they were traveling, when they see this man running, I'd say—especially when he comes and falls right down in front of Jesus—they see the zeal that this man has. They see his concern. Even when they hear his question, they are thinking; he is really sincere. I really believe that he really was sincere. When he comes and kneels down, and he asks Jesus a question about eternal life; I think he was sincere. I don't think that he would have been coming. It says he was rich.

When you look at the word “ruler” in the original text it brings out the idea of the same sort that would have been on the Sanhedrin. In other words this guy was probably a very influential guy. For him to have a ruler's position then no doubt he probably had a lot of friends. For him to be young, wealthy and to be a ruler, then he would have been someone who would have been very influential in the community. Everybody probably everybody knew him. He probably had a good reputation. We know that he was good morally because of what he says on down here. When people saw him running and kneeling down in front of Jesus and when he asked Him the question; there is no doubt that they saw that he was sincere.

First, he said “Good Master.” That may not mean too much to you and me, but address someone in that manner in the day that Jesus was alive. When you use the word “good” the Jews usually ascribed the word “good” only to God. That was the only one that the Jews would call “good.” They would call only God “good.” Not people, not men, not anything else, but they really revered the word “good” and it was associated with God. He uses the word here “Good teacher.”

17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

So, he asked Him a good question. We will get to Jesus' response in a minute. He asked a good question. What shall I do that I might inherit eternal life?

I really appreciate it when people come to me and say, “What do I need to do to get saved? What do I really need to do so that I can get ready to go to heaven?” I really appreciate that don't you? I will say this that there have been times in my life over the last thirty years that there have been people who have asked that question that when you tell them the answer out of the scriptures, they don't like that. This guy, likewise, is not going to like that and we will get to that in a minute.

This guy says, “What can I do?” First of all he is thinking here that he is going to be able to do some kind of a work to be able to inherit eternal life. That was something that was

very prevalent in Jesus' day. Not only that but it is very prevalent today. You can people about being saved, about being born again, about going to heaven and they want to tell you about all the good works that they do. They want to tell you about all the good things that they do and all the good works that they have where they have done this or that. Works are great and we appreciate people working for the Lord, however, you don't work to get saved.

When you read the book of Galatians chapter 3, the Old Testament Law, the works that were in the Law, they were good, they were great but the Law was given to Moses to point people and to show people that they needed to get saved. There was nothing in the Mosical Law that could save you or to wash you and make you clean. There was nothing there. It was like looking into a mirror and seeing yourself. That is what the Old Testament Law did. It showed you that you were filthy and you were unclean and that you needed to get saved—that is what it did.

This young man here, even though he was an influential guy, he was wealthy, he had a lot of things going for him and he asked the question: "What good thing can I do... What kind of a work can I do that I can go to heaven?" People say that a lot today. They really do.

So many of our churches today, even in our own community at hollering distance out here tonight, all kinds of people; they think that they are going to go to heaven because of what they do.

I used to work for a fellow that lived in this community. You could ask him about coming to church. You could ask him about getting saved and getting ready to go to heaven. The first thing that he would tell you is "I believe in the Ten Commandments." That is great about believing the Ten Commandments, but what about being saved and what about being born again?

We think sometimes that because we sustain from something or because we don't do something that is already a recommendation to God. It doesn't work that way. It is good that people don't commit hideous sins and that is great. However, just because we don't do something does not mean that we are ready to go to heaven. That is very true.

17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

Again, associating going to heaven and having eternal life with good works. He just did not understand what he was asking.

18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God.

Look what Jesus does. When we read that verse we may not think about it a lot. Jesus said, "Why callest thou me good?" This young man understood the word "good." He understood how the word "good" was used in his culture. Jesus is actually saying here,

“If you are calling me “good” then you are calling me God.” He is trying to get him to understand who that He really was. “Young man, if you are calling me “good” if you are recognizing that I am “good” then you need to recognize that I am God. There is only one that is “good” and that is God. Therefore, if you are calling me “good” then you need to understand that I am God.”

19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honor thy father and mother.

He says, “You know the commandments.” Now that tells me that Jesus—we know that He knows everything—He knew this young man and what he had practiced in his life. He knew all about this young man. He said thou knowest the commandments. You know what the commandments say. You know what Moses and the Law commanded. You know when God gave Moses the Law on Mt. Sinai. He knows what is there.

He makes the statement here: “Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honor thy father and mother.” Those are all great things, weren’t they? This guy was a great fellow as far as, morals go. As far as being someone in the community who was an outstanding fellow; he was a good guy. Salvation does not depend upon external things.

Thou shalt not commit adultery, is external.

Thou shalt not kill, is external.

Thou shalt not steal, is eternal.

Thou shalt not bear false witness, is external. In other words, don’t lie about someone.

Defraud not; don’t take something that does not belong to you

Honor your father and mother is man’s relationship towards man. That is what he is talking about. He uses these commandments and He mentions these commandments, however, these commandments have to do with man’s relationship with man which is external things.

This young man had done all that. He had not killed anyone. He had not committed adultery. He had not lied. He had not defrauded anyone. He had been good to dad and mom. He had done all these things. All these external things and so many times we try to relate salvation or being born again to someone being a good person.

I know all kinds of people who don’t commit adultery. They don’t steal. They don’t lie. They don’t defraud you. I know all kinds of people that do that. However, many of these same people have never been born again. Just because we don’t commit these external sins does not mean that we are ready to go to heaven.

Jesus is trying to get this young man to think about some things. He is leading to a place where He can talk to him and tell him exactly what he needs to do if he wants to go to heaven. That is a good lesson for us in how that Jesus talked to this man.

In our actions to people and our reaction to people sometimes, we drive people away in our conversation because we say things before we think. Even though what we might say

is true there is a way to talk to people, and to deal with people that you don't come off being very belligerent. In other words, there is a right way to say things and there is a wrong way to say things. Even though we might say the same thing, we can say it in a way that you can run people off.

Jesus is saying things and doing things; leading this young man up to a place where that He can tell this young man exactly what he needs to do if he wants to go to heaven. People need to hear that.

*19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honor thy father and mother.
20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.*

All these things have I done. Now get this. When Jesus said, "Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honor thy father and thy mother, Defraud not anybody..." I'd say when he heard these things and Jesus stopped; do you know what I think that he thought? "Yeah, man; whoopee, I've got it made! If that is all I need to do to get to heaven then I have got it made!" However, there is more to it than that. There is more to it than that.

I would say that the reason he was really happy and smiling. I would say that when he heard these commandments that Jesus mentioned, he thought that "Man, I am there. I have got this whipped." Probably, most of here tonight before we got saved, we quit a lot of things that we were doing. We tried to do our best to clean ourselves up but do you know what we come to understand? We understood that there was still yet something that we needed. Even though we had quit all the external things that still yet did not save us.

20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

From the time I was a boy I never done these things.

21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

That is a good statement. It really is if you never thought much about it. Many times we look at things and read things and don't think much about them. However, Jesus when you read the story, when He sees this young man coming and the qualities that this young man possessed: ruler, honest, sincere question, being sincere...when we are dealing with anyone, if you know they are serious then you go the extra ten miles with them.

I deal with people a lot of who I know is not serious. They want argue and I don't waste my time. I have got better things to do than to argue with people. If I want to argue, then I'll talk to Deb. (Just kidding) There are better things for us to do than to argue.

Jesus knew that his young man was actually sincere. He comes. He runs. He kneels. He asked the question. When it uses the word “beholding” Jesus, when He finishes talking to the young man and the young man says “All these things I have kept from youth up.” Jesus just stares at him. He beheld him. He had a stare. He looked straight at him right in the face. The Bible says that He stared at him or gazed but He also uses the word “loved” him. The word here for loved him in the original is agape. Jesus looked at this young man, even though He knew what he was going to do, He looked at him and gazed at him, He saw his enthusiasm. He saw his genuineness about wanting to know. Jesus saw all that. He uses the word “loved” him. Even though Jesus knew that in a matter of moments that this young man was going to go away, Jesus had a love for this young man unconditionally; an unconditional love even though He knew that Jesus knew this young man was going to turn and walk away. Jesus loved him. Isn’t that awesome!

We could all put ourselves in the same place. We could all put ourselves in this young man’s shoes. Some believe. Some don’t believe. We could all put ourselves in those shoes. However, isn’t it great that Jesus loved this man unconditionally and He loved us unconditionally? He is going to tell this young man what he needs to do to go to heaven. He told you and me what we needed to do to go to heaven. He is telling people everywhere today—everyone that will listen, everyone that will come to Him and listen—Jesus Christ is telling them what they need to do to get saved. He loves them. If He loves people and we say that we love Him then we have to love them too.

Our love for people, it does not matter what the nationality that they are. It does not matter what side of the tracks they come from. It does not matter what color their skin is. Our love for them should be as Jesus Christ loves them. If we love Him, it will be the same kind of love.

This young man here, Jesus gazed at him. Jesus loved him. Jesus stared at him. He loved him with this no strings attached love. He saw his genuineness. He saw his sincerity. He saw all the things about this young man. Even though He knew that in a few minutes that this young man was going to be gone; Jesus still yet loved him. That is love isn’t it?

21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

The young man says “I have not committed adultery. I have not done all these things.” Jesus looked straight at him and said that there was still yet something missing. This young man knew that. He knew enough about the Law to understand that even though he had not done all these eternal things that there was still yet something missing in his life.

As I said earlier the Law pointed us to Christ. The Law shows us that we are sinners. The Law shows us that we need to be cleansed. The Law shows us that there is a Holy God and there is a sinful man and we need to be reconciled. We need to be brought back into a right relationship with God. However, there is only One who can bring us back into a right relationship with God and that is the One that hung on a cross outside of

Jerusalem named Jesus Christ. He is the One who can cleanse us. External things cannot do that.

God is a Holy God. Man is a sinful creature. We are sinful on the inside. It is not external things that make us sinners. We do external things that are sinful because we are sinners. However, the problem is that we are sinful on the inside. When we look at the Holiness of Almighty God and we see the sinfulness of man; doing external things would be impossible for us to make it right with God. Wouldn't it? Just think about that for a moment. If man's problem is on the inside, and we know that God is a Holy and righteous God, then by us not doing some external things does not change our heart. That does not make us right with God. There has got to be a change there and it has to be on the inside. The reason that Christian people don't commit these sins that we have mentioned here is because of a change made on the inside. There are all kinds of "church people" that do these things but I'm talking about people who are saved and living in the will of God. There are all kinds of church people who commit all these sins and whole list more; however, people who are saved and living in the will of God don't live like that because there has been a change made on the inside. For us to be made righteous and declared righteous in the sight of Almighty God then there had to be a change on the inside.

He said, "one thing thou lackest" Jesus knew all about this young man. He knew all about him.

Isn't it wonderful to know that He knows all about us? He knows every thought that we will have before we ever think it. That is how much God knows about us. He knows everything that there is to know from the soles of our feet to the top of our head; there is nothing that God does not know. There is no secret. There is nothing in the dark with God because He sees it all. He knows who we are. He knows what we really love. He knows what we really cling to. He knows what is primary in our lives. He knows what we are living for everyday. He knows who or what we focus on everyday. He knows what we think about everyday. He knows what we spend all of our energy on everyday. God knows that. We are not fooling God. God knew all about this young man.

He said, "You still yet lack something. I know that you have been a good fellow. You have been a good boy. You have been a good man. I know that you have not done these things. However, there is still yet something missing in your life." Keeping the Law will not make you righteous in the sight of God. Keeping the Law will not make you a candidate to go to heaven.

21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

Probably you could have told this man anything except that and there would have been no problems. You could have told him to climb Mt... You could have told him to go swim the Nile River. You could have told him to go down to the Jordan River and do all kinds of stuff and he would have done it. Do you know why Jesus told him to go and sell

all that he had and give it to the poor? Because that was the thing that was primary; that was the thing that this young man was living for, was “stuff.” It was things that money could buy. It was things that wealth could acquire. It wasn’t that he wasn’t a good person. He would have been a great neighbor to have. He would have been a great co-worker. He is a hard worker. He would have probably fit in a lot of churches. However, he lacked something and Jesus told him what he lacked.

Get this.

When we read this, I have heard people say “I got saved and I have to get rid of everything I got.” You don’t have to get rid of everything you have. However, for this man to be able to go to heaven, he was going to have to get rid of that because that was the thing that was separating him from Almighty God. That is why Jesus said “take what you have, sell it and give it to the poor.” He then says, “then come and take up your cross and follow me.”

Jesus knew what this young man really loved. He knew that he was sincere in the question that he asked. He really understood everything about this young man. However, when the young man heard what he needed to do; he did not like what he heard.

The Bible uses the word “grieved” here.

22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

The word “grieved” we don’t think much about. However, when you look at this word in the original, it tells us that it is like—have you ever said something to someone and they have a smile on their face but as soon as you say it, their demeanor changes just like that. They change from being happy to mad just like that. This is what happened to this young fellow. Actually the word in the Greek brings out the idea of a cloudy stormy event about to take place. In other words, he went from being very happy...but when Jesus says “You need to take what you have, sell it, and give it to the poor.” His whole expression changed. He went away grieved because he had great possessions. He did not like the answer. He did not like what he was going to have to do to go to heaven.

So many folks today don’t like that. There have been folks at this altar here that we have prayed with but when you tell them what they have to do to straighten up; they don’t want to do that. We prayed with some people here, not very long and after the service was over we spent a little time talking with them. We told them that if you are going to go to heaven then you are going to have to change your lifestyle. You can’t live like you are and go to heaven. I don’t care how many times you come to this altar. There are many folks that are like that. They want to know but when they do know then they did not really want to know.

People go away sad. We don’t ever want to run people off but we have to tell people the truth. We have to tell people that they cannot live in sin and go to heaven. We have to

tell people that if they are going to go to heaven that it is going to take a clean walk with Almighty God. It is not that we are perfect or that we don't mess up. No. We are going to do those things. That is going to happen. However, sin is not going to go to heaven. We cannot live a sinful life and expect to go to heaven just because we come to church. Do you know what happens many times? People leave and don't come back. I don't want that to happen, but it happens. I would rather see people walk out that door because we have told them the truth than to compromise the truth and we would have three thousand people sitting here tonight. I want people to go to heaven. I want people to come to Campbell Chapel but above all that I want to see people go to heaven. You can't get people to go to heaven by telling them half truths, patting them on the back or condoning their. You can't do that.

There is going to be a day, and it may be sooner than we think, but there is going to be a day that every one of us will stand before Almighty God. Not as a group necessarily, but personally, one on one there is going to be a day that we will stand before Almighty God. I don't want to hear, when I get there, "You deceived this guy or this person. Remember that one came and you just told them this to pacify them." I don't want that to happen at all. I don't want to wake up one day and get a phone call that someone has died that we did not really tell the truth because we beat around the bush because of who they were. We look at people's wealth sometimes, or we look at people's positions sometimes or we look at people's authority sometimes and we want to try to sugar-coat things. We have to tell people the truth that they have to be born again to go to heaven. It takes a clean walk to go to heaven. It takes a clean life to go to heaven. That is what Jesus done here.

The Bible says that he went away sorrowful, or sad.

22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

Look what Jesus done here.

23 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

First, I want to say this as we look at this verse. There are going to be some people who are millionaires that will be in heaven. They have been millionaires on planet earth. There are going to be some people that are worth probably tens of thousands and billion are going to be in heaven because they have trusted in Jesus. Riches don't keep you out of heaven. Possessing riches will not keep you out of heaven. However, when riches possess you then riches will keep you out of heaven. There is a difference between possessing riches and letting riches be a servant for us, and being a servant to riches.

We are living in a world crazy like that today. We become a servant to things. We want more things. We have to work 90 hours a week just have more things. There is nothing wrong in having things but when we get that wrapped in having things and things has got us then it becomes an issue.

He says “How hard is it for people that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God?” Jesus knew that this young man trusted in his riches. Everything he was looking at throughout his life was surrounded by riches when he looked at his future. Everything that this young man had and everything that he was focused upon was his wealth and his riches. He was trusting in them.

I promise you tonight that if you die tonight and put you in the ground the day after tomorrow that all the wealth that you have trusted in is not going to help you one bit. It will not take you anywhere with God. If you have trusted in wealth, land, property, job, your family or if you have trusted in anything else except Jesus Christ; all that stuff is not going to help one bit. Jesus made the statement “How hard is it for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of heaven?” The Bible tells us that it is the “love of money” that is the root of all evil; not money, but the “love of money.” The desire to have money is the root of all evil.

I’ve seen people that had a passion for money, but they did not have two quarters to rub together. They loved it, but they didn’t have any. They desired it. That is what the book of Timothy was talking about. Jesus said, “How hard is it?”

25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Someone that trusts in riches, actually it is saying that it is impossible. These guys knew what sewing needles were. He is talking to the disciples, not only that but when you read this in the original text, Jesus used the word for a “medical needle.” It meant a needle that you would sew up things, body parts, stitches or whatever; the word is actually a medical needle that Jesus’ used here. These guys mended their nets all the time and they knew what sewing needles were. You can’t take a camel and put it through the eye of a sewing needle. It is impossible. ...for those who trust in riches—not those who are rich, He did not say that—but for those who trust in their riches. Their whole life is focused upon having things, and more things from the time they get up until the time they go to bed. They are looking at their wealth and their riches to recommend them to God. It is impossible for anyone like that to go to heaven. You can’t take a camel and put it through the eye of a needle and Jesus is making that very clear.

I wish that we could people to understand that today. Some of my family is like that today. They look at the stuff they have and it is just stuff. It is just stuff is all that it is. They have all kinds of this stuff sitting everywhere. They have literally hundreds of thousands of dollars in stuff. They won’t leave the place. They won’t go off the place and do you know why? They won’t go off of the place because they are afraid that somebody will steal some of it. They are prisoners. It is sad that when we get to having that kind of confidence in stuff that it gets us to the place that we become prisoners. It gets us to the place where we use it for excuses not to come to church. “Preacher, I’d love to come but if I leave someone will carry off everything I have.” If I loved it that much, I’d give it to somebody. If it would keep me from going to heaven, I’d put it all in a pile and burn it. Whatever you have, whether it is much or whether it is little; it is not worth losing your soul over. I don’t care how much fun you have with it. I don’t care

how much joy it brings in your life; it is not worth going to hell over forever and ever. It is not worth it.

You can be saved tonight. However, you cannot be saved trusting in anything else but Jesus Christ. He is the author and finisher of our salvation. He is the beginning and the end; the first and the last. It is Jesus Christ. If you trust in Him tonight, you can go to heaven. If you won't trust in Him tonight then it is impossible for you to get there. You cannot get there if you don't trust Jesus Christ.

Are you saved? Do you know that you are saved? If you don't know that, it would be a wonderful time for you to come. He wants to save you. He loves you just as much as He loves this young man. You may not have possessions. You may not be a ruler. You may not even be young, but Jesus Christ loves you just the same. It would be a wonderful night for you to come and repent of your sins and make things right with God. No matter where you are at; it would be a great time for you to make things right with God. Jesus loves you. He wants to save you. He wants to forgive you of your sins. He wants to put purpose in your life. He wants to bless you. He wants to do that tonight, but you have to come to Him.

Jesus said, "Come unto me all you that labor and heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Come—