

MISSING THE WAY TO SALVATION MATTHEW 19:14-22

Need: All men need a saving relationship with Christ.

Proposition: Salvation is found through trusting Christ Jesus alone.

Objective: To lead those who desire to be saved to forsake every other hope of eternal life except Jesus Christ.

Introduction:

This unnamed young man is one of the most tragic figures in the New Testament. He came so close to the salvation of the Lord only to make a choice that exposed his soul to eternal damnation.

It was such a memorable event in the life of Jesus that three of the four gospels recorded it. Matthew puts the account right beside the account of Jesus blessing the little children. He declares that the kingdom belongs to them though they bring nothing to him except their trust. They have no possessions or position to protect but the rich man is kept from the kingdom by the gracious privileges that God has given to them.

I am not aware of a more revealing incident concerning the way of salvation than this one. It causes me to search my heart to make my calling and election sure every time I read it.

We have to put the three gospel accounts together to understand the identity of this young man. Matthew tells us that he was rich. Luke tells us that he

was a ruler. Mark tells us that he was young. While they differ in the facts they record about him, they are in agreement that he missed the way of salvation.

I. YOU CAN HAVE THE DESIRE TO BE SAVED AND STILL BE LOST.

The man came to Jesus with an appropriate recognition of Jesus. He addresses Him as “Good Teacher” or Good Rabbi.” While he did not address Him as Lord or Messiah, but he was respectful.

1. The desire may be sincere.

Everyone recognizes the sincerity of the rich young man. He did not come with a trick question like the critics of Jesus. He sincerely wanted to know what Jesus knew about the way of salvation, or the way to eternal life. But this sincerity did not bring him salvation. Our generation puts too much value upon

2. The desire may express a real sense of need.
3. The desire may bring the person to Jesus.

II. HUMAN GOODNESS IS NOT THE WAY OF SALVATION.

1. Human goodness can be self-serving.
2. Human goodness will always come short of the divine standard.

III. ANYTHING YOU LOVE MORE THAN GOD WILL KEEP
YOU FROM SALVATION.

1. What ever you love first is the master of your life.
2. Whatever you love first is the god of your life.

Religion can be a god.

Drugs can be a god.

Sex can be a god.

An unholy relationship can be a god.

Money can be a god.

A career can be a god.

The approval of men can be a god.

IV. YOU MUST CHOOSE TO MAKE A FAITH COMMITMENT
TO JESUS IN ORDER TO BE SAVED.

1. Repentance is a choice.
2. Faith is a choice.