



# Mighty in the Word

*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1.18).*

*Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)*

*The Wise Still Seek Him*

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of the  
Lord  
Jesus Christ

## ***I'll Do What You Want Me to Do, Dear Lord!***

I read about the rich young ruler in Luke's Gospel who asked, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

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

And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich (Lk18.20-23).

There are some things that were brought to mind in the reading of this passage and the others regarding the rich young man in the other gospels as well. His response to the Lord saying to him, "Thou knowest the commandments" was one we hear today, a response of goodliness. "All these have I kept from my youth up."

However, there is more in this passage that we need to read and understand. The Lord's reply, I believe, can be said to us today in a world of goodliness, a world that no longer hears much of godliness. We live in a world of "feel good" so that no one is offended. How often I have heard people say we should not offend people. It is then I realize this person(s) has not read the Holy Bible; they are giving their concept of a loving God Who obeys people and never offends.

This is a day and age in which people are taught that life is about them. But the Bible reveals to us life is about the Lord Jesus Christ, and our walking in obedience to him.

Hear the words spoken to the rich young ruler. "Yet lackest thou one thing." He kept all the commandments from his youth up, so he says. However, to show one's love of the Lord Jesus Christ, one must obey whatever the Lord requires of them. In this passage, we read that the Lord said to the rich young ruler, "Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me."

The rich young ruler showed where his heart was as do we when we walk encumbered by the worldly riches, worldly things, worldly ways. Interesting how

# Thy will be done in me, Lord.

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*Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).*

the enemy, how Satan, lures us into thinking like he does; therefore, leading us down the path of hell while thinking our goodness, as seen by the world, is of the Lord God. Adam Clarke wrote the following on Mark 10.21:

**One thing thou lackest** - What was that? A heart disengaged from the world, and a complete renunciation of it and its concerns, that he might become a proper and successful laborer in the Lord's vineyard. See [Mat 19:21](#). To say that it was something else he lacked, when Christ explains here his own meaning, is to be wise above what is written.

I wonder how many have a heart that is disengaged from the Lord, and complete renunciation of the Lord and His commands, His desires for us – a life of holiness in Him, a life of joy complete in Him, a life of peace that comes from Him, our Lord and Savior.

Many in their thinking and understanding of the Bible – or is that lack of understanding – have endeavored to bring the Lord and His Holy Word down to their ways, their thinking, their sinful lives, have aligned what the Lord has spoken to what Satan says.

I recall a time in the pastorate that someone in the community died, and it was announced at church, "Miss B died. She never went to church, or anything like that, but she was a good person, and now she is better off." Their meaning? God has changed His Word to goodness equates with godliness, and all are going to heaven.

I have heard of many who have walked in sin, with intentionality daily and for years without repentance, who when they die, people will say God is a merciful God – so the person is better off now; they are with God.

I ask the Lord to guide me, to teach me as the meaning of the Holy Bible seems to change daily toward meaning the same as Satan teaches. I read a portion of one translation where marriage was taken out inserted was "partner." Just get a "partner." Words are being changed and people say, Well it is a personal opinion as to what a word means. And, I fear, so it goes from the pulpits.

This is discouraging as people today do not want to know the Lord and His ways, His commands upon our lives.

For those desiring with desire to walk in the ways of the Lord, let us continue seeking the Lord in all that we read and hear - that we might walk in obedience to the Lord. Let us hear what the Word of God says, and ask ourselves if what the Lord spoke to the rich young ruler is spoken to us today. What is it that you and I lack in our lives? Wherein have we failed our Savior? Have we failed to place Him first in our lives? Have we failed to acknowledge Him above all in our lives that we might live for Him Who died for us?

Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

Wherein have we failed the Lord? We need to search our hearts and ask the Lord - what is that to which He has called us - and all for His glory.

Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go *[and]* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *[and]* follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions (Mt 19.21, 22).

Important in this passage is also the sorrowful parting between Christ Jesus and this young man. The Lord gave Him the opportunity to follow Him, but the young ruler, rich young ruler, was not able to disengage from the world. His love for his riches, his way of life was first and foremost in his life. How sad that the young man "went away sorrowful"!

I recall during my pastorate a very wealthy man who was a *leader* in the church and looked up to, but perhaps looked down upon the poor, in his wealth, as he said, in essence, the poor do not need help, "I made it in life, they can too."

Oh Jesus, help us to disengage from the world. Help us to repent of our sins, and give our lives, our hearts, to You in obedience to Your Holy Word. Give us love for those You place in our lives to help.

One thing I found interesting that John Gill wrote concerning Matthew 19.21 is that "negative holiness" is not the answer as most believe. Many can say when reading the Decalogue, I have not done anything wrong. I have kept the Ten Commandments. John Gill writes that "our Lord signifies it was not enough to be possessed of negative holiness, and do no hurt to his neighbour, to his person, property and estate, but he must love Him and do good." I fear we are caught up in keeping the letter of the law, but our hearts are not with the Lord. We may not have harmed anyone, but - but, have we reached out to them in the Name of the Lord Jesus? Have we told them of "The Love of God" in Christ Jesus for their souls, their lives? Many may be able to say, "I have not done anything wrong." But how many can respond with their desire to help others, and, not only their desire to help others - but have actually reached out to others in the Name of Jesus with the Gospel Message?

The Lord says more to this young man: One thing thou lackest: sell all thou hast and "come, follow Me." The Lord spoke to the disciples as He called them, "Follow Me," and each one did. There were others who were called, but their response was, "Yes, but first I must . . . ."

In Mark's Gospel, it is written "take up the cross." This is the Gospel of Christ Jesus, being willing to "take up thy cross" and follow the Lord. To follow the Lord is to be obedient to the Lord, to observe the commandments, and to submit to His ordinances, and to imitate Him in the exercise of grace. We cannot walk with the Lord unless we take up the cross, willing to bear reproach and persecution with patience, understanding hardships and difficulties - which attend faith in Christ, a profession of His name, and following him, the Lamb, whithersoever He goes.

How many are willing to see the Lord Jesus Christ, asking "What is it, Lord, that You want of me? Help me to know Your will for my life - come what may. Give me the strength, the courage, to speak forth Your Truth, Lord, in a nation of chaos,