

# Jesus Receives the One Who Forsakes All

Matthew 19:16-30

*Halifax: 28 May 2006*

## Introduction

Last week, we began a new section in Matthew dealing with “The People Jesus Receives.”

- In that message, I showed you that He receives not only those who **come** to Him on their own, but also little children who are **brought** to Him by their parents.
  - I spoke to you about how we may bring our children to Jesus today for His blessing—by prayer, by having them baptised, by teaching the word to them, by chastening them in His name, by teaching them of His forgiveness, and so on.
  - If we bring them to Him, He will bless them. He has promised.

This week we come to another category of persons that Jesus receives...

- those who forsake all to follow Him.
- In this passage we have an example of a man who is excluded from eternal life because he will **not** forsake all to follow Jesus.
  - And then you have in contrast to him the disciples of Jesus who have forsaken all and who are given great encouragement by our Lord because of it.
  - It is all a very interesting story,
    - but I would urge you to do more than just listen to the story...
      - It is the word of God...
    - We are not here to learn about this chap that walked away in sorrow because he couldn't forsake his riches...
      - We are here, assembled before the Lord, that He might deal with our souls...
        - to have Him speak to us and lay us open so we can know where we stand with Him...
        - At the end of this sermon, you need to know if you are one who has reason to go away with sorrow, or one who has cause to rejoice with Jesus' disciples...
          - This is all written for **you** brothers and sisters—it is written for you in order that you might have fellowship with the living God the way the disciples did.

TRANS> And so I would begin by asking you a question that arises from this account of this rich young man who approaches Jesus...

**I. Have you ever had that gnawing feeling inside that something is missing as far as your relationship with God?**

- . The young man in our text surely did!
  0. He comes up to Jesus in a most surprising way!
    - . Matthew says, “Now behold!”
      - Look at this! Something surprising here! Something extraordinary!
    - . This man comes up to Jesus to inquire about his soul!
      - He is not coming with a child to be blessed...
      - He is not coming with a sickness to be healed...
      - He is not coming with a question to try to trap Jesus or a criticism!
    - . This man is actually coming to Jesus to ask Him how he may obtain eternal life!
      - How often does this happen to you?
        - Most of the time, you are trying to wake people to see that they need eternal life...
        - But this man comes right up to Jesus and asks about it—
          - This is just not something that happens every day!
          - In fact, I think this is the first time it has happened in the gospel of Matthew!

TRANS> It is quite striking to see this happen...

0. But it is all the more striking because this man is one of those men who seem to have everything!
  - . We are told that he had great possessions—
    - pretty much all that money could buy...
  - . We are told in the other gospels that he was a ruler (as Luke tells us)—
    - a man highly respected and esteemed in the community...
  - . We are told that he was young—
    - he had attained all these things in his younger years.
  - . It seems apparent that he was a moral man—
    - he can make the claim that he has kept all of God’s commandments...
    - No doubt, he is talking about an external righteousness, but as touching the law in his outward conduct, he was blameless—like Paul before his conversion

- . From his actions, it appears that he was an earnest man and a devout man and man who is not ashamed of his convictions...
  - for he comes to Jesus not in private,
    - but in the eyes of all,
    - bowing down to Jesus (as Mark informs us) and asking Him this question...
    - “Good teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”

TRANS> Though he had all these accomplishments and most people would have thought he was a man who “had it all,”

- He is honest enough to come up to Jesus and show that he has a deep yearning within...
  - He knows that something very important is missing in him...
    - eternal life!
  - It is an important enough concern to him that he is not ashamed to come up to Jesus to ask about it.
    - A lot of men in high positions have this same emptiness...
      - It is not that they have it **even though** they have accomplished a lot, but they have it **because** they have accomplished a lot.
      - They have accomplished a lot, but they know that they are not yet complete...
        - They know that something very significant is missing...
        - They know that they have not really found the key to life.

0. Just what does he mean by “eternal life?”

- . Surely eternal life is life that is meaningfully connected with God, the eternal one.
  - It is life that responds not only to the created world, but also to the Creator...
  - It is life that has a purpose beyond eating and drinking and trying to have a little fun—
    - even beyond trying to make a contribution to the good of mankind.
  - It is life that has found an answer to the bigger question—
    - What are we all here for?
    - It is not content with just going through the motions of living and dying in this world with nothing more.

- . Indeed, God has put His stamp upon us and we are restless until we find Him and lose ourselves in Him.
  - As our Maker, He holds the key to our purpose...
  - We are here for Him...
    - We are here for His glory...
    - This man wanted to know how He could get in step with His Creator!
  
- . I hope that you know something of this same desire...
  0. I am really quite confident that you have experienced it even if you try to push it away and deny it...
    - We were made for God and we are not complete until we find our life in Him.
  
  0. I was personally quite struck with this longing when I was in university...
    - . As with this man, things were going quite well for me...
      - Some of my dreams were being realised, but I began to ask the question: “What is the point of all this?”
      - What good would it be to have the career I wanted and the wealth I wanted and the relationships I wanted...
        - What difference would it really make?
        - What would I really have?
        - There was an incredible emptiness in tasting success!
  
    - . And the more I thought about it, the more I knew that the nothing else could really matter but to know my Creator...
      - God had made me, and my life was surely empty unless I lived for Him.
        - What else could possibly be the point of it all?
        - Are we just cattle to live and mate and look for green grass and try to swat the flies away and die and that’s it?
          - Surely there is no reason to live but for God.
          - And so like this man, I began to seek eternal life.
  
  0. Now I know that we are all different and we all have different experiences, but I hope all of you realise that you are dead unless you have life in communion with God...
    - . Some of you have grown up in a godly home and you have known about God from your earliest days...
      - So had this rich young man—but he was not really living for God.

- He did all the religious things, but when it came down to it, it was not his relationship with God that made him tick...
  - It was his career and his position and his possessions.
  - You need to take a good look at yourself and be sure that you really are a possessor of eternal life—life in connection with the eternal God.
- . Some of you have come to faith later in life as I did...
  - You came to some crucial point when you realised that you were without the Lord and you humbled yourself and found life with God...
    - This passage encourages you to be sure that you have continued in that life...
    - The scripture warns you—as in the parable of the sower—not to become so entangled in the cares of this world that you drift away from life with God.
- . And there may very well be some of you that are without this life altogether...
  - You may have made a profession of faith and you be in the Christian church,
    - but you are not really about God and you know it—or at least you need to know it...
    - Let the word of God search you out—
      - Do you need to be looking for eternal life as this man did?
      - Do you need to humble yourself and admit it even though you have been in the church for years?
      - Is your religion just a formality without real substance?

TRANS> We are all different, but I think we ought to all have a strong desire for eternal life—a yearning to have life with God, life in communion with Him, life that is all about Him.

- to have a life that will last forever and that would be worth lasting forever.
- This should all the more be the case if you come to realise that the only other option is eternal death—eternity under the wrath and judgement of God.
  - So this rich young ruler came to Jesus and just ask Him straight out...
    - “What must I do to inherit eternal life.”

## **II. So what does Jesus say to Him?**

- . He says,
  - “If you want to enter into life, keep the Commandments!”

- 0. What kind of answer is that?
  - . I don't think Jesus would have done very well if He had taken a modern evangelism course!
    - They would say,
      - "No, no, don't ever tell him to keep the commandments...
      - tell him to confess that he is a sinner and to pray and ask Jesus to come into his heart to save him."
  - . Is Jesus encouraging this fellow to try to be saved by his own works?
    - No, Jesus is not encouraging this fellow to be saved by his own works...
- 0. But Jesus is telling him to be obey God's voice!
  - . That is what eternal life is—
    - Eternal life is living in response to God and all that God is—and that means living according to His commandments...
      - It is living a life that is responsive to God's will.
      - It is living for Him.
  - . Brothers and sisters, I hope you see this...
    - This is the life that we lost when our father Adam fell into sin.
      - Yes—Jesus must save us...
      - I am going to have a lot more to say about that later...
        - but what does it mean to be saved?
        - What is at the essence of salvation?
    - No doubt, our salvation begins with the forgiveness of sin,
      - but also begins with a new life that is directed toward God and His commandments...
      - We are received by God and we start to live for God—in obedience to God...we are restored to Him as our Lord and Master.
      - And our salvation is not complete until we get to heaven where we will obey God perfectly...
        - Eternal life is living in perfect harmony with our Creator—fulfilling His purpose for us—

TRANS> So Jesus tells this successful young man,

- "If you want to have life, keep the commandments."

- . But this brought no satisfaction to the young man—
- 0. As far as he could tell, he had already done that—from his youth up!
  - . He first asks Jesus which commandments he is to keep,
    - perhaps there is something he has missed...
      - but Jesus refers him to a few of the Ten Commandments... and the most ordinary ones at that—the easy ones...
      - This was nothing new...
      - This fellow knew these commandments and had done them all along!
  - . Now I would not say that he is being insincere here...
    - This young fellow really did believe he had kept all these from his youth up...
      - He was looking at them according to the letter...
        - Look at what they actually say—take the ninth commandment—thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour...
          - What is that talking about?
            - It is talking about going to court and making a false accusation about someone to get them in trouble—he had never done that...
            - And adultery—no, he had never taken another man’s wife...
            - And stealing and murder—not him, he had never done these.
  - . So he tells Jesus, “All these have I kept from my youth up.”
    - But he knows that he does not really have eternal life...
      - So he also says, “What more do I lack?”
      - He is earnest about this...
        - He is disappointed with Jesus’ answer because he had already done this as far as he can tell.
        - He wants to know what else he can do.
- 0. Now it is obvious by the young man’s answer what his real problem was!
  - . He did not look at the commandments of God as *really coming from God*.
    - Of course if you had asked him, he would have told you that God gave them on Mount Sinai...
    - But he didn’t really look at them as *God’s voice to him*.

- He didn't see the living God standing behind the commandments and monitoring his life by them.
  - They were just a list of rules that God had given for Israel's conduct—important rules—but nothing more than a code of conduct!
- This superficial view of God's commandments has always been one of the greatest problems with God's people!
- 0) It makes all the difference in the world when you see the commandments (and all of God's word), as **God's voice to you**.
- It is one thing to have a rule that says, "Thou shalt not kill."
    - You can say, "Fine, I can keep the rule."
  - But if you know that the rule is God's voice to you—and that He has intimate, real, personal dealings with you...
    - That He sees right to the very depth of your soul—all the secret motives and motions that even you yourself don't see...
    - That He searches you through and through...
    - That He, this awesome, holy, pure divine person sees all the things that you would be ashamed for your neighbour to see...
      - all the bad attitudes and wishes...
      - Then the commandments take on a whole new significance!
        - Suddenly, you are a murderer because you know that many times you have excluded your brother—not wanting to rid him from the earth, but to rid him from your life at least...
        - The holy God who made Israel tremble when He gave the commandments sees it all and He makes you tremble when you assess yourself before Him.
- 0) When these are *God's commandments to you*, they take on a whole different dimension...
- Even the very best, most moral person—like this rich young man—has to crumble before God and say,
    - "Woe is me for I am undone!"
    - "I am a sinner! Who will save me?"
- 0) Brothers and sisters, let me tell you—we have to be very careful about this.
- There are two very common approaches to the commandments of God that essentially make the commandments dead for Christians...



- ) The first commandment killing approach is that which takes the commandments in a purely objective manner.
  - They see them as an objective standard which they are,
    - but they do not see them as God’s voice to them personally...
    - They are like this young man...
    - They don’t have dealings with God when they hear the commandments...
    - They can listen to them commandments and say—yep, I have kept all these.
    - The law for them is dead—other than as a mere moral rule book.
  
- ) The second commandment killing approach is really a reaction to the first...
  - Persons in this category rightly want to have a personal relationship with God...
    - But they look at those bound up with lists rules and traditions and the Ten Commandments and they say...
      - “Now that’s exactly what we don’t want”—and they toss it all out.
  - And so instead of having God’s Commandments as God’s voice to them, they begin to look for God to give them little personalised messages...
    - The written word of God is not for them the voice of God...
    - God talks to them about other things—sometimes silly things—that are really little more than their own imaginations.
  - The awful effect is that they end up having a relationship with an idol that they have made up in their own heads (or hearts if you prefer) that is quite different than the God who reveals Himself in the Bible.
    - They often will acknowledge the Bible and the commandments, but this is not really where God speaks to them in living ways!
  
- ) In both cases, the effect is the same...
  - The word of God is lost to both persons...
    - They do not hear God’s voice in God’s commandments.

- They are therefore not able to respond to Him and to really deal with Him as He is.
- The first bunch, has the Ten Commandments in form, but God is far away...
- The second bunch has God in a personal way, but it is an idolatrous version of Him.

TRANS> It is obvious which category the rich young ruler falls into...

- He has the commandments, but in a dead formal way...
- He has had no personal dealings with God...
  - So when Jesus tells him to keep the commandments, it is no help to him...
    - The law of God does not come to him as a living oracle, but as a dead letter...
    - It cannot awaken Him to repentance...
      - It is dead to him.
        - Yet, he still knows that he lacks something—
          - He realises that he doesn't really know His God...
          - So he asks Jesus for something more...
          - "What more do I lack?"
- . Jesus knows what is wrong with the rich young ruler, so he gives him a very specific, personalised command—a command tailored just for him...
  - "Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."
- 0. This is just what this man needs to do...
  - . Jesus sees right inside of him—
    - This is what the written word of God does when it is not dead to us... it searches us out and penetrates to the very depth of our heart and soul...
      - it is personalised to what we are...
  - . And so this man has a personalised strike at the point where it is needed...
    - at his covetousness!
    - His life is all about his possessions and his success...
      - He must destroy this idol so that his life can be about serving God.
      - Until he does, he will remain dead.

- . Yes, he has the Bible and he worships God and he has the commandments memorised and knows the stories of Abraham and David...
  - But he is not living before the face of God...
    - His life is all about the world and the things in the world as if the things of the world were independent of God.
    - He does not serve God with his possessions, but he serves his possessions.
      - Jesus calls him to destroy this idol because it is destroying the man!
  
- 0. Now there two common mistakes that God's people make when they read about this command to sell his possessions and give to the poor...
  - . The first is to think this is required of every believer who wants to attain to a higher state of perfection...
    - The Catholics call it one of the counsels of perfection, the other being abstaining from marriage.
    - This view is clearly erroneous as some of God's choicest servants were wealthy—like Job and Abraham...
      - besides, Jesus is talking here about what is required for eternal life.
      - The word translated “perfect” here is a word that refers to reaching a goal... and this man's goal was eternal life.
        - Jesus is telling him what he needs to do if he wants to have eternal life—not perfection.
        - Selling all is what **this** man needs to do because his problem is covetousness...
          - Covetousness is what blinds him and keeps him from seeing the kingdom of God.
          - We must not think Jesus' to him pertain to all who want to attain some higher state...
            - This is about the need to break with idolatry that is keeping this man from eternal life.
            - The first error is to suppose that this commandment literally applies to every person...
  
  - . The second common error, however, is to suppose that this has no application to us at all...
    - But this is just as false...
    - The truth is, everyone who wants to have eternal must repent of his sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ...

- And if there are idols that keep us from dealing with God as God is, we cannot be saved until the idols are destroyed.
- We cannot be saved because we cannot see that we are sinners...the idols have stolen our heart and made it dead to God.
  - Like this man, we think we are okay when we are not okay...
  - We think we are okay when we need to repent and be cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ.
    - The rule for everyone is that we must forsake all and follow Christ...
    - Jesus says if you do not do this, you cannot be His disciple.
      - The whole change in salvation is that you forsake the world and enter into life eternal...
      - You begin to live a life responsive to God—His word lives in you and you live in Him.

TRANS> Well, it is very sad because this man is at last confronted by the commandments in a personal way—

- He hears the living word of God... but it is sad because he rejects it...
- And the reason he does is because he has great possessions!
  - He feels that he has too much to give up!

### **III. Jesus has something to say to us about this!**

- . He looks with pity and love at this man and he says,
  - “Assuredly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.”
- 0. You see that Jesus is not talking about perfection—he is talking about salvation...
  - As it stands now—if this rich young ruler continues in this way, he will not be in heaven.
    - Jesus comments on how difficult it is for such a man to be saved!
    - This man has so much to live for that he does not live for God.
      - His life is swallowed up with investments and trading and management...
      - He is full of these and empty of God.
      - His relationship with all these things is real, but his relationship with God is superficial...
      - He is alive to his possessions but dead to God—even though he is a devoutly religious man.

- It is hard to wake a fellow like this up to reality of God...
  - He is too distracted!
0. But I want you to think... Why is this saying of Jesus written in the word of God?
- . It is written for you and for me!
    - It is written to warn us to beware of covetousness!
    - There are many many warnings in the Bible about this and we need to take them seriously!
    - There are millions of souls that come near to salvation and never find it because their hearts are possessed by covetousness.
    - It is a very real danger.
  - . J.C. Ryle has some very helpful words about this...
    - “Let us prove our own selves as we consider this passage. Let us see how it touches our own souls. Are we honest and sincere in our professed desire to be true Christians? Have we cast away all our idols? Is there no secret sin that we are silently clinging to, and refusing to give up? Is there no thing or person that we are privately loving more than Christ and our souls? These are questions that ought to be answered. The true explanation of the unsatisfactory state of many hearers of the Gospel is spiritual idolatry. We need not wonder that St. John says, “Keep yourselves from idols.”

TRANS> But Jesus does not stop with saying that it is hard for a rich man...

- . He goes on to say that it is impossible!
0. Jesus words are very clear.
- Look at verse 24...
    - “And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”
  - A lot of people have tried to modify His words here,
    - some have said that there was a gate called the eye of a needle that camels had to enter on their knees,
      - but they have said this without any evidence that such a gate exists...
    - others have said that it was not a camel but a cable (as the words are very similar in Greek),
      - but the word camel appears in all three gospels that record this story.
      - Jesus is saying that it is impossible for a rich man to be saved.

0. The disciples understand Him very well, for they are greatly astonished—struck out of their senses is the literal meaning here!
- . They ask the question, “Who then can be saved?”
    - You see, their society was not like ours—
      - we tend to think the rich are not as close to God, but they thought of them as being closer.
      - So to say that it was impossible for *them* to be saved—
        - Where did that leave everybody else?
  - . Besides, if the problem was covetousness, the disciples knew good and well that the poor had just about as much problem as the rich...
    - If the rich man is consumed with what he has, the poor man is often consumed with what he doesn't have...
      - The people who do statistics tell us that most people say that they would be perfectly content if they had about twenty per cent more than they do now...
      - The funny thing is, when they get another twenty per cent, it is only a matter of time until they are wishing for another twenty per cent.
        - So the disciples are quite concerned...
          - If the rich cannot be saved—if a noble man like they just saw can't be saved—who can?
          - They are utterly astonished and distressed that Jesus should say such a thing.
    - . And I tell you, I think this shows that they had honest hearts!
      - I fear that many of us would have been full of envy when we saw this rich man and when Jesus said it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to be saved,
        - we would say “Yea, that's right—that doesn't surprise me...”
      - To say that is to entirely miss the point...
        - The disciples' response is a right response...
          - “They were greatly astonished saying, ‘Who then can be saved?’”
          - “If it is impossible for a man like this, how can it be possible for anyone?”
          - Praise God that they said that!
            - Oh that we might say it to and mean it!

- And when are able to say this...

#### **IV. Jesus has words of comfort for you...**

- . He says that God is able to do what man cannot do...
  - v. 26: "But Jesus had looked at them and said to them, 'With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'"
- 0. Now brothers and sisters, these are wonderful words for every sinner who knows that he is dead in sin to hear...
  - "You can't save yourself but God can save you!"
  - When God's law comes to you as God's voice to you...
    - When you finally hear His commandments not as a formal list of rules but as the requirements of a holy God who lives,
      - You die...
      - This is what the Apostle Paul describes in Romans 7...
        - He says,
          - Romans 7:9-10: I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. And the commandment, which *was to bring* life, I found to *bring* death
        - The commandment made him realise that he was excluded from God by his sin with no way to save himself.
          - He realised that salvation was impossible for him...
          - But then he turned to Christ and was made alive by His divine power...
            - Paul could not give life to himself, but God could give Him life.
              - He makes dead souls live!
- 0. That's what happened to all of you who have eternal life...
  - . That is what the new birth is...
    - God gives you life, He gives you a new heart...
    - When you come alive to God, you see that your life without Him is a barren desert—even if you are filled with all sorts of riches!
      - You realise that to have all the wealth in the world and lose your own soul is to have nothing!
  - . It is God who opens your blind eyes to see this...

- In Ephesians 2, Paul says, “And you He has made alive who were dead in trespasses and sins.”
  - In Ezekiel 36, God says, “I will take away your stony heart and give you a heart of flesh.”
    - You come alive to God!
    - He is the one who does it!
      - With man it is impossible, but with God all things are possible.
0. Just look at all the examples we have in scripture of rich men who were made alive...
- . There is Abraham who left his home at the call of God and then eventually was prepared to offer up his only Son at God’s command!
    - Why was he able to do it?
      - Because God had made him alive to himself—Abraham knew God and because he knew Him, God meant more than anything else to him.
  - . And Moses—he was a rich man in Egypt, but look at what God did...
    - Moses saw God by faith so that he esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt—He did this we are told, “seeing Him who is invisible.”
    - That’s what was wrong with the man in our text...
      - He could see God who is invisible—he could only see his riches.
      - His eyes were blinded by his riches...
        - Jesus is telling His disciples that it is impossible for such a man to enter eternal life—why would he if he has something he believes to be better?
        - But God can change all that!
          - That is our hope!
          - That is what happened to all of you who truly believe...
            - God reached down by His mighty Spirit and made you alive who were dead.

TRANS> Isn’t it wonderful news! With man it is impossible, but with God all things are possible!

- . So what should we do with this wonderful testimony about our God’s power?
0. I think it is very touching to see what Peter does!
- . He hears Jesus say this and it seems that his heart leaps for joy!



- He was just now distressed looking at this man and wondering how anyone could be saved...
- But when Jesus describes how God can change a sinner's heart, Peter says,
  - "Yes! That explains it! That's what happened to us!"
    - "God made us alive who were dead!"
    - "He made us realise that life without God is all a barren wilderness—all our righteousness and our riches and our relations are dung."
- . And so Peter says to Jesus,
  - "See, we have left all and followed you. Therefore, what shall we have?"
  - Brethren, don't criticise Peter for saying these words!
    - A moment ago he was saying what most of us are too proud to say—"Who then can be saved?"
    - But as soon as he hears about the power of God's grace he says...
      - "Yes! That's just what happened to us! That's just what we have done!"
      - He remembers falling at Jesus feet and saying, "Depart from me for I am a sinful man..."
        - And He remembers Jesus calling him to follow him...
        - He knows that God has done the impossible!
        - He knows that God is the one who opened his heart to leave all and follow!
          - And he knows that this is what happened to his fellow disciples also!
          - "We have left all—what shall we have?"
            - Wonderful words!
  - . Jesus has no criticism for these words at all.
    - 0) Instead He promises that after He ascends into heaven to sit at the right hand of God as Lord and Christ...
      - that when all authority and power in heaven and earth is given to him...
      - then Peter and other eleven apostles will sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel...

- This day came when they were endowed with the Holy Spirit and became His official spokesmen on earth!
  - These men were caused to reign in the church!
  - They announced God's salvation to all that would believe and proclaimed His judgement upon all that would not believe.
  - It is by hearing and believing their words about Jesus that Israel lives or dies...
  
- 0) Yes indeed, God had a very great reward for these men who had been called and given life by the power of God...
  - They truly had left all and their reward was very great!
  
- 0. And Jesus goes on to say something to all of you who have been made alive...
  - to all of you to whom God, through His word, has spoken—
    - to kill you to the world and to make you alive to Himself...
  - . In verse 29, he says to you...
    - v. 29: And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life
  - . Following Christ always means losing things in this world...
    - 0) Wealth and even family! In obedience to God you often have to say no to these and you often lose them!
      - But you will be given new riches and new family and they will be a hundred times better than those you left behind...
        - They will be better because you will have them with Christ...
        - You will have them in service to God instead of in a land of death.
    - 0) Hudson Taylor once said that he found he could never sacrifice to God...
      - Because whenever he tried, God always gave him back so much more in return!
        - That's the way it works in God's kingdom...
        - The more you give yourself in service to Him, the more you sacrifice, the greater your happiness!
  - . Above all, Jesus says that you will inherit eternal life!
    - The very thing this rich young man was looking for...
      - This rich young ruler who had everything that this world can offer and who knew that he was still empty.

- You have eternal life when you are brought into an eternal relationship with the living God.
  - It will be for you to grow into the fullness and blessedness of the glory of what God first designed you to be!
  - It will be for you to live forever in the light of God's glory, discovering His beauty and His excellence and enjoying the bountiful, always satisfying, pleasures that He bestows on His own!
  - This is eternal life—
    - to know the Father and Jesus Christ whom He has sent...
    - To see the love and glory between God the Father and God the Son and to be brought into that circle of their love forever—
      - giving it to them and receiving it from them.
      - Without that, all the riches of the world are a mere dung hill!

**In Conclusion, hear these words from J.C. Ryle**

Riches, which all desire to obtain,—riches, for which men labour and toil, and become gray before their time,—riches are the most perilous possession. They often inflict great injury on the soul; they lead men into many temptations; they engross men's thoughts and affections; they bind heavy burdens on the heart, and make the way to heaven even more difficult than it naturally is.

Let us beware of money. It is possible to use it well, and do good with it; but for one who makes a right use of money, there are thousands who make a wrong use of it, and do harm both to themselves and others. Let the worldly man, if he will, make an idol of money, and count him happiest who has most of it; but let the Christian, who professes to have "treasure in heaven," set his face, like a flint, against the spirit of the world in this matter. Let him not worship gold. He is not the best man in God's eyes who has most money, but he who has most grace.

Let us pray daily for rich men's souls. They are not to be envied: they are deeply to be pitied. They carry heavy weights in the Christian course: they are all men the least likely "so to run as to obtain. Their prosperity in this world is often their destruction in the world to come. Well may the Litany of the Church of England contain the words, "In all time of our wealth, good Lord, deliver us."