

The Rich Young Ruler

Luke 18: 18-30

1/21/01

Intro

- Men's Spiritual Growth Class
 - Growth Group Sign-up (and WABC)
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In these verses we listen in as a young man asks the Lord a question. We learn a great deal as the conversation unfolds.

The young man is called the rich young ruler. Which is to say that he is rich, young, and powerful. Who could ask for anything more? Yet the man is empty inside – something is missing...life, even eternal life.

There is much for us to learn in these verses.

These are lessons from the Rich Young Ruler.

I. It Takes More and More to Satisfy.

A. The process starts early.

Illus- When Nicole was a baby she was happy with warm milk and a clean diaper. It takes more today.

- We will keep wanting more of the Kingdom as well.

- There's infinity ahead of us (both *time* and *God Himself*).

B. How many people have reached worldly success and discovered their lives were empty.

Vs

- This man had it all.
- Even religious piety.

C. The soul is not satisfied with such things.

- He knew something was missing.

II. The Soul is Not Satisfied with Outward Religion.

A. The Law was given to show us how much we needed God.

B. Holiness is more than just the action of God.

- It's also the heart and character of God!!
- Jer 31 – He will write the Law on our hearts.
- It's not just someone else's standard (God's), it's also mine.

Illus – There is a law that we should care for our children. This is written on our hearts, we own this one. It's our law.

III. Jesus Challenged His Priorities.

A. It's impossible for a rich man to enter into heaven.

- As impossible as a camel through the eye of a needle.

B. But those who are poor in spirit are rich in God.

Illus – The church in Laodicea. Rev 3:14-22

Conclusion

The soul is satisfied only in a close relationship to God.

No matter how much wealth he had, the rich young ruler could not ride in a car, have any surgery, turn on a light, buy penicillin, hear a pipe organ, watch TV, wash dishes in running water, type a letter, mow a lawn, fly in an airplane, sleep on an innerspring mattress, or talk on the phone. If he was rich, then what are we?

The world is poor because her fortune is buried in the sky and all her treasure maps are of the earth.

■ Calvin Miller, "The Finale."