

Getting it right - Rich young ruler

Online service sheet during the coronavirus.

Reading Psalm 34

Reading Luke 18:18-25 (page 1053)
Matt 19:16-24, Mark 10:17-25

Title: Getting it right - Rich young ruler

Listen to today's sermon by clicking on the link at www.knbc.org.

The audio file is **20_05_17.mp3** in the sermons directory

Reflective prayer what does this mean for me Lord.....

Close -----

Welcome

Welcome again this morning to KNBC. I hope you are coping well in these trying circumstances, we all respond differently some of you flourish and are steady while others lag and wobble. Let's keep wearing the PPE, Our faithful Lord gives us Christians PPE; Prayer, Promise and Experience: of these there is no shortage! May the Lord encourage us. *Pray*

- I know you have had it happen to you just as I have had it happen to me: someone comes up to you and tells you that one of your dear friends has suddenly become seriously ill.
- "Did you hear about John?" You look at the questioner and you know that something shocking is coming. You wait for the briefest of seconds before the answer comes, and in that millisecond, you know that your life will be changed by the answer.
- "John has cancer." Or the answer might be: "John had a heart attack this morning." Or: "John had an accident."
- "Oh, no!" you say. And then you ask for details. What kind of cancer is it? A heart attack—how is he doing? How bad was the accident? Is John going to live?
- Oh, those are horrible moments! Depending on how close the person is to you, you experience different degrees of shock, dismay, and despair. "I hope he makes it through—I hope he lives"—this is what you think, or you say it to your friend who is telling you the bad news. You shake your head. Possibly you feel tears forming. You look away and wonder where you can go to pray for his recovery.
- Now it's happening to John. But sometimes it happens to you. Maybe you've experienced this. "Well, what do the tests say, doctor?" you ask. "Is it Covid?" The doctor takes a moment. You try to keep your voice calm, but your stomach is in knots and you are tense because you know that if the news is bad, your life will never be the same.
- The doctor hesitates, and then the words come: "Yes it is" his voice tails away. You hear him say "I'm sorry, it does affect different people in different ways we will just have to see, there is as you know no cure".
- And that is that. That is everything. That changes everything. Nothing is as it was five minutes ago. The message has come to you: You are sick, and you have a disease that could kill you; in fact it might kill you.

You have discovered something about yourself, and you wish it wasn't true. It is a shock. It is not what you want to hear.

This morning's passage is Luke 18:18-25. It's about a man who made a discovery about himself, what does he then do? Let's follow using 4 points which all begin with 'D'; Desire, Delusion, Discovery, Disappointment, x2

Desire

Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. It starts with great gusto as this man skids to a halt at the Jesus' feet. Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem and may not be around for long. This man seizes the moment while he can.

On his knees he calls out "**Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?**"

That's a good question,... He calls him good teacher and in Christ it is true; Jesus Christ is today the good Master and the best of teachers. Jesus *is the Brightness of God's glory, the goodness of His glory, and the express image of His person*, - and so rightly called 'good teacher'.

19 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No-one is good— except God alone. Christ desires to teach him, and us, to transfer our praise to God the father and give Glory to Him, - all goodness is from God. He is the Fountain of goodness, and whatever the streams are, *all those springs are in him*, Jas 1:17.

"**what must I do to inherit eternal life?**".. is a good question. many at the moment fearful of hearing bad news are asking - while not in those words - that sort of question.

However, normally one doesn't hear it, - especially not from young people. It *is* a good question to ask. Do you, will you, whether young or old have a care for your soul - and have concern for where you will be after you die?

- Trains, tube trains, buses all have a plate on the front saying where they are going – If you had one on your forehead - what would it say? –do you know? Not sure?

✚ Do not think there is still enough time yet to consider and put it off.

You don't know – so now is the time, do not rest until you have found the answer to this key question. You're never too young

- How good it is to find salvation when young. A number I have known have become Christians, and clearly so, while still 5 or 7 or 9.

Don't leave it.

✚ Here was a young man, seeking certainty about his soul and eternity.

But he was deluded – he had a wrong idea of himself - Delusion A

Matthew records him asking Jesus: "**what good thing must I do?**" 'Good thing' why did he ask about doing a 'good thing' the question??"

Does he think that 'doing good' will bring eternal life! What do you think?

Mat records Jesus' reply: **If you want to enter life, obey the commandments."**

He says to this young man: **20 You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honour your father and mother.'**" Mark adds **do not defraud, Matthew and 'love your neighbour as yourself.'**" From Lev 19

Of the ten commandments they are mainly from tablet two? Except No. 5 The first-table duties have in them more of the essence of faith in God, the second-table have duties in them more to show the evidence of that faith.

✚ Our light *burns* in love to God, but it *shines* in love to our neighbour.

So is there a way to life through the Law?

Le 18:5 **Keep my decrees and laws, for the man who obeys them will live by them.** (Repeated in Eze 20:11 Eze 20:13 and Eze 20:21). Paul affirms this in Ro 10:5 **Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "The man who does these things will live by them."** (And again in Gal 3:12)

There is way to life is through the Law – if you keep it - you will live!

How about you? Have you kept them? All of the laws, - all of the time? **NO**

Here's 'Delusion B' What did this young man say? **21 "All these I have kept since I was a boy,"** Had he? Really? Did he only see the law as stopping the outward acts of sin? Perhaps he had a good upbringing - **since I was a boy"**.

Just because a man or woman is free from gross obvious sin doesn't mean he's without sin. Sin is in the heart, it includes your true motives and all those evil desires, which are all before the God who searches every heart.

✚ The law is there not to make us feel good – rather to point out this sin!

Paul says some sins go before you to judgment, they're obvious, some follow afterwards secret sins not seen by men - only to one day be exposed by God.

Here is a man, he's not a drunkard or immoral or disrespectful, probably quick to help others, as used to be the case for many in Britain years ago.

- We remembered VE day and praised the 'greatest generation'. Why did the media see them as great? Because they served, they sacrificed they were faithful in their duty. Why did they have these

qualities? Because of our own natural goodness? No, because of Christian teaching and influence, and particularly Sunday School that most went to. If only the media would one day acknowledge this!

✚ No this man is ignorant of God and he is ignorant of himself.

He had grown up with the ten commandments but did not know the extent and spiritual meaning of them. Rather than say *I've kept it* - shouldn't he have said with shame and sorrow;

✚ "All these have I broken, what shall I do to get my sins pardoned?"

But he didn't – in his pride and vanity he said the opposite.

Now Delusion C When he says: "**What do I still lack?**" (Matt 19:20). Is he coming to ask for everlasting life because he knew he didn't have it? And therefore asking humbly for further instruction? Show me what I need?

Or when he says: "**What do I still lack?**" was it more like "*what more could I do*" A sort of boast, can't you see I have done enough? He throws out a challenge to Christ "*show me one area of my life where I am deficient? Go on! Surely there's nothing, surely God will accept me.*"

Luke sees the man's pride because he puts this passage just after the account of the Pharisee who, confident of his own righteousness, goes up to the temple to pray. (18:11,14). "**I thank you God I am not like this sinner here**"

✚ In this man's boasting you see he is deluded as to his true state.

Is he not blind to his own heart? There are many like him. Can you see the Holiness of God? - and therefore the sinfulness of your life? Do not suppress the voice of conscience.

Discovery

This rich young man is about to make a discovery – it is concerning the true state of his own heart – something he didn't understand - and he didn't want to understand...

- Can you imagine going to the doctor for a test, or to a clinic, cancer test and they say we will send the results through in a couple of days and when it comes you just leave it unopened. You're un-interested!

That is serious enough but to be given a diagnosis as to your spiritual state and not listen, not be interested is not only foolish – it's disastrous.

²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, Yes you do "**You still lack one thing.**

He could have answered him about the ten commandments - but instead he had a better way – a way for him to see more clearly his own illness. This would effect a true self-discovery.

- The doctor hands you the kit and say "go home and test yourself" green is good, yellow borderline and red you have it"
- Soon there will be testing kits for the Covid-19 virus
- 'Ultimate Gift' film – A millionaire father with many sons he gave them all a test to see which one would spend the money wisely.

We do a similar heart test to those who show interest in the things of God.

Come to the prayer and bible study, profess your faith publically tell what the Lord has done and be baptised. Show your love for Christ by giving of your time and money, seek to join in membership, come and share your faith with others? NO & NO It's this far and no further!

Jesus says: **Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."**

There is his answer –Why hold on to fleeting treasures here when you can have lasting treasures and Joy in the presence of God forever WOW!

What would this man do?

Disappointment

Mark records ²² **At this the man's face fell.** ²³ **When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth.**

He went away. Off he walks. It is too much for him. He – and everyone else - can see his true heart as slips off disappearing into the crowd.

He was a rich man, and he loved his riches, and therefore went away. He would not have eternal life on these terms.

²⁴ **Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"**

There is a warning for us here... Watch out that we are not tempted to love what we have in this world. Are you stuck to it, wedded to it? Do not let your hearts be drawn and ensnared, such is the bewitching nature of worldly wealth. He had ignored commandment no.10 missing from the list. Do not C

Ps 62 says: "**though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them.**" ^{62:10}

✚ To make that choice is to close the door to everlasting life.

- Imagine the doctor says to you "you must eat less or you will have a heart attack and die" and you go off thinking to yourself "I love my food, I don't want to, I'm not willing to give it up" and go off sad.

You are sad. It's the kind of sadness or sorrow; worldly sorrow: which does not want to give things up, a selling out of your soul for temporal pleasures.

Or there is Godly sorrow, a grieving over my sin, being bothered by it. It is a temporary sorrow for those who do this find peace, for Christ will give that person peace.

There's no budging with this young man, he has his mind made up and **went away**.

Did you notice Jesus didn't chase after him.

Nor will he chase after you - if you don't want to come -he won't chase you.

✚ **This man lacked one thing, and it was the main thing, the big thing, the key to everything. His life into eternity.**

He would have done something, some good thing, to have this happiness. He was willing to do something for eternal life, he would pay, and pay handsomely for the privilege.

But would he give up his heart No No

Are you like this man who thought he could make it to heaven? The truth is you simply won't make it. You don't qualify. Oh I know some of you have been baptized and attend church, you call yourself a Christian. You may be a Sunday school teacher, a deacon, or are busy in some way – it really doesn't matter. The fact is, you won't make it. You won't go to heaven, regardless of all this if you have not forsaken all to follow Christ.

Jesus said so clearly - **Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.** Lu 14:33

Jesus does not adjust to you - or the age we live in - or anything else, it is all for him or none for him. **"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.** Lu 14:26

Because of the crucial importance of this matter let's be sure to make no mistake about it. This is no place for a slip-up. Otherwise you could end your days here in false security, only to find yourself consigned forever to the company of the large number who think that by doing certain things that would take them to heaven, no it will take you to end up suffering in Hell.

Here's a lesson for all of us - unless you have done what Jesus says to this man you will not go there. You won't make it. **"come follow me."** Jesus says. That means you have to forsake all else. **And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.** Lu 14:27

There's the bottom line, he loved the world and his enjoyment of it more than his desire for the kingdom of Christ.

He thought he could serve two masters.

Jesus in speaking of the Kingdom of God spoke of it as a pearl of great price. This man wouldn't buy it.

Jesus in speaking of the Kingdom of God spoke of it as a treasure found buried in a field. but this man didn't see it's' value, what I already have is better he says to himself.

The sad news, the sad discovery about himself, he discovers he has been

1. blind to his own state – the blind man afterwards is given his sight
2. he has trusted in his own goodness – will he humbly come as a child?

He is young and able but ignorant of what is more important. He's a ruler but actually a slave to his passions. He has wealth really he is pauper.

✚ **This young ruler did not die of Covid 19 or cancer or a heart attack, but died without finding forgiveness for his sin - much more serious - for he had to face God's judgment.**

He has opportunity to confront it – be he chose not to. May no-one listening to this do the same.

If you see yourself in this man, always giving in and never confronting your life before God - then now is the time to turn. What Christ did is good news. Christ kept the law fully, He did everything to please God in action and in his heart. He, unlike you and I, loved God his father with all his soul, all his mind and all his strength - all of the time. Then with that perfect life he took it and gave it up as a sacrifice for me, my substitute, suffering in my place. Christ rising from the dead proves that this way and this way only is the way to everlasting life.

And that is a free gift – there to be had for all who will come and bow to Christ Jesus as Lord. If you haven't then do so now. Now is the time.

✚ **Desire, Delusion, Discovery, Disappointment. x2**

How much like him are you? Do you have that desire for eternal life? Good, then don't be deluded but see clearly. Discover the truth of your hopeless state. Then urgently turn to Christ and say **"have mercy on me a sinner"**. You won't be disappointed. Rather you will make a truly greater discovery. The wonders of knowing Christ in this life and forever.

End