



Bible Biographies

Sunday Night Auditorium Class

Responding to God's Call: **The Rich Young Ruler**

Read Matthew 19:16-30 (parallel passages: Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30)

Introduction

Picture a rich, young, powerful man running up to you and asking how he can be saved. Hard to picture, isn't it? When we think of those who are seeking truth, it is hardly the rich that we think of first. Even Paul said that "not many mighty, not many noble" have been called by God (I Cor. 1:26).

Yet here comes a mighty, noble man – a young man, even – running up to Jesus and asking, "What shall I do that I may have eternal life?" The account in Mark tells us that Jesus had compassion on the young man.

This incident, recorded by all three synoptic gospel writers (Matthew, Mark and Luke), is one of the most important stories in the Bible. It tells us volumes about Jesus and His reaction to those who would seek after Him. It also speaks to our own human nature and challenges us to look deep within our own hearts and question our motives and our priorities.

Questions (primarily from the Matthew account)

1. How do we know this man was "rich," "young," and a "ruler"?
2. Why did this man call Jesus "*good* Teacher"? Explain Jesus' response (v. 19).
3. How did Jesus answer the young man's question? Do you think he would answer us in the same way?
4. The response of the man seems to show some arrogance, but also some humility (v. 20). Explain.
5. What did Jesus mean by "perfect" (NKJV) or "complete" (NASB)? What specific thing did He tell the young man to do to become "perfect"?
6. What did the young man do? Why?
7. What lesson did Jesus teach His disciples who witnessed this event?
7. Explain v. 23-25.
8. Peter has something to say, of course (v. 26). Describe his statement and Jesus' response.
9. Apply this to us – what does Jesus require of us so that we may have eternal life?