

I'm a Good Person: I Have a Christian Background

October 14, 2018

Scripture Text: Luke 18:18-26 **18** *Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"* **19** *So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.* **20** *You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'* **21** *And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth."* **22** *So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."* **23** *But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.*

24 *And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! **25** For 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."* (This referred to a gate in Jerusalem called Needle's Eye, which was so narrow that it was necessary to remove cargo from animals before passing them through; this drew a parallel to the idea that one has to relieve oneself of worldly attachments to achieve the Kingdom, Rich people have a lower probability of entering the Kingdom of Heaven not because they're rich, but because when one has earned something, one is unlikely to want to give it up for anything. The idea was that it's easier to unload cargo from a camel so that it can pass through the Needle's Eye, then load it again, and do this for an entire caravan, than for a rich man to give up everything he has to fulfill himself spiritually). **26** *And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?"*

Realizing that death is passed on to the rich as well as, the poor, he came upon Jesus to ask, what could he do to inherit eternal life and live forever?

By all Old Testament standards this young man was had the admiration praise for his commitment to the law. I am sure that there were people who wanted what he had, especially his wealth. Some probably believed if they could become one of his associates good fortune ensue because of the relationship.

Jesus with full knowledge asked, him if he knew the commandments and he replied that he was raised by his parents to obey the law from his youth. He passed that inquiry, perhaps thinking that "I'm in" now check that off. Well, it was a two-part question and part "B" was there is "ONE THING THAT YOU LACK!" Jesus told him, sell all that you have, give to the poor, in other words invest in Heaven(for everlasting treasures) and follow me. The young man didn't expect that question; you could say that he was blindsided. It's human nature to want more than pay less. He wasn't willing to invest in having eternal life because his belief system didn't allow him to see beyond what he possessed (his wealth). In the heart of every person is a desire to live youthfully forever on their terms.

Too many people are willing to invest in the tangible, rather than the intangible. They have been conditioned to depend on what is substantial and not what is unseen. As a result, there is little importance given to one's eternal soul. Man's quest to live forever is being capitalized by the physical augmentations, marketing, fashion and the film industries in order to feed our vanity.

Let's reason together: If your mother and father were athletes and as a child, they took you to athletic events several times a week does that make you an athlete? I think that the answer would be no! They can take you to all the sporting events and teach you all the skills, but you have to decide to become an athlete. Needless to say, being raised by Christian Parents who have given the knowledge of Christ and His plan for your life you have to make a personal commitment. It is good to have had parents recognize the importance dedicating you to the Lord as a Child. Consequently, at the age of accountability, you are the one to decide on your own volition to commit your life to Christ. It's not enough to have the knowledge without the commitment.

Please don't be deceived into thinking that you can be a Christian without personally asking the Lord into your heart. The saddest day in your final hours is being unsure about where you are going to spend eternity. If you are unsure let's make a commitment of a recommitment today.

Here are three essentials:

Recognize that you have a sinful nature no matter how loving you and your parents were to each other. Doing good deeds will not be enough to get you into Heaven.

Repent for your sins because every single person born into the world are sinful(Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God.")

Receive the Lord Jesus as your personal savior and not a religion.

APPLICATION:

Being raised in a Christian Home doesn't make you a Christian.

What makes you a Christian is a conversion (being born again) in Christ.