

Speaker: Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

Title: God's Kingdom, My Priority

Text: Matthew 6:33

(Matthew 6:33)

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

(Matthew 19:16-30)

16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” 17 So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

18 He said to Him, “Which ones?”

Jesus said, “ ‘*You shall not murder,*’ ‘*You shall not commit adultery,*’ ‘*You shall not steal,*’ ‘*You shall not bear false witness,*’ 19 ‘*Honor your father and your mother,*’ and, ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*”

20 The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” 21 Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. 23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

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.”

25 When His disciples heard *it*, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?”

26 But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” 27 Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?”

28 So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife^[s] or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.

30 But many *who are* first will be last, and the last first

Matthew 19:16-30 can be divided into 3 parts:

- The rich young ruler – how to enter the Kingdom? (Verses 16-22)
- The dangers of wealth (Verses 23-26)
- The rewards of the believers (Verses 27-30)

THE RICH YOUNG RULER

(Matthew 19:16-22)

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' teaching caused some misunderstanding:

- Jesus denied that He was good,
- Jesus said to keep the law to have eternal life instead of faith,
- Jesus told him to sell all to have eternal life.

The rich young ruler can be commended in that:

- He believed in eternal life (Verse 16)
 - Eternal life is to live as God intended life to be lived.
 - God is first in your life and you are living in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
 - Separation from God is death because God is the source of life.
(Ephesians 2:1)
“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins”

(1 John 5:12)
“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life”

- He came seeking
 - He ran and knelt before Jesus

(Mark 10:17)
“Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him,
“Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”

 - A person does NOT SECURE eternal life – He SEEKS eternal life.

- He acknowledged and confessed his need
 - Though he was young and rich, yet life was not complete and satisfying.

- Three necessary truths:
 - Believe in eternal life – God is the source of life.
 - Seek for eternal life.
 - Confess the need for eternal life.

But, this is not enough to receive eternal life.

(Matthew 19:22)
“But when the young man heard that saying,
he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”

Let us deal with the misunderstandings:

FIRST MISUNDERSTANDING: GOD ALONE IS GOOD (Verse 17)

- He called Jesus, “Good Master” acknowledging Jesus as an honorable man, a highly regarded teacher.
 - He did not consider Jesus to be the Messiah – God’s only Son but a mere man.
 - He saw Jesus as a man who had achieved unusual moral goodness.

- Therefore, he asked, “What good thing shall I do.”
 - He was looking at a religion of works to save him and not faith in God.
 - That is why Jesus said “Why do you call Me good?
No one is good but One, that is, God” (Matthew 19:17)
 - We are saved by grace through faith not by works.

- Jesus put the record straight:
 - He was the Son of God,
 - You are saved by faith through God’s Son, Jesus.

- Man thinks he can make himself good enough to be saved or have eternal life.
 - To have eternal life, is to have a born-again experience.
 - Jesus and Nicodemus (John 3).
- The rich, young ruler failed in two areas:
 - To see Jesus as God’s Messiah – Son of God,
 - To see that the nature of man is sinful and needs to be born-again by faith and not by works.

THE SECOND MISUNDERSTANDING:

JESUS ASKED HIM TO KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS (Verses 18-20)

- Jesus laid the foundation for salvation that is by faith in God and His Son, Jesus Christ.
- The next is to love your neighbor as yourself.
 - Do not murder – life of your neighbor.
 - Do not commit adultery – a woman of your neighbor.
 - Do not steal – property of your neighbor.
 - Do not bear false witness – name, reputation of your neighbor.
 - Honor father and mother – closest neighbour.
- James calls it the royal law
(James 2:8)
“If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture,
“You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well;”
- The man said he did.
- Jesus pointed out it was not enough as it was done out of man’s egoistic nature not after the nature of Christ- likeness.
- Jesus was teaching to love God first and then love your neighbor.

(Matthew 22:36-40) Question from a lawyer:

“ 36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” 37 Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

THE THIRD MISUNDERSTANDING: SELL ALL TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE (Verses 21-22)

- Have faith in God and His Son Jesus.
- Live by the royal law of “love your neighbor as yourself.”
- And deny self – it must be crucified.

All that we are and have belongs to God.

(Luke 9:23)

“Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

(1 John 4:20)

“If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?”

CONCLUSION

The young ruler rejected Christ for 3 reasons:

- He was not willing to entrust his life to Christ the Messiah.
- He was self-righteous – His religion was a stumbling block.
- He loved his wealth or the world more than his neighbor.