

JESUS, THE MASTER SOUL-WINNER

(Part Eight – Christ’s Dealing with the Rich Young Ruler)

TEXT: Mark 10:17-31

INTRODUCTION: We have already seen how Christ did not follow the beaten track of modern evangelistic techniques in dealing with this promising young man. Though He genuinely “*loved him*” (v. 21), He did not alter the terms of salvation for him. We are not omniscient – like Jesus – Who could see into this man’s heart, but we have the same Holy Spirit Who “*convinces men of sin.*” And how does He bring about this conviction? By using God’s Law – the Ten Commandments.

Whether the issue is bulging pockets or bloated pride, a man must be brought to the end of himself before he **can** place his complete trust in Jesus as Savior. Let us go back to the Master and “*learn of him*” how to deal with self-righteous souls.

OUTLINE: How did Jesus treat this promising young man – and why?

I. He CORRECTED him.

(vv. 18, 19)

A. For stopping short of calling Jesus “God” (v. 18)

B. For asking of Jesus a question when he already knew the answer (v. 19a)

1. Jesus did not fault him for asking what he could “do” (Acts 16:31; John 6:28,29).
2. Jesus had no added, secret requirement for receiving eternal life.

II. He COMPASSIONATED him.

(v. 21a)

A. The young man showed such rare determination and sincerity.

1. He came in the right way.
2. He came to the right Person.
3. He asked the right question.

B. Christ loves even those who won’t let Him save them (2 Pet. 3:9; Lk. 23:34).

III. He CRUSHED him.

(v. 21b)

A. He exposed his besetting sin.

B. He exacted two things:

1. Repentance

2. Complete surrender

IV. He COMMENTED on his case.

(vv. 23-31)

A. The miraculous nature of regeneration (vv. 23-27)

B. The glorious rewards promised for those who count the cost to follow Christ (vv. 28-30)

C. The solemn warning against presumption and complacency (v. 31)

CONCLUSION: This story has a sad ending. The rich young ruler came to Jesus for eternal life, but he left without it. Did he ever get saved? The Bible doesn't say, but it does leave a glimmer of hope. Although he "*went away grieved,*" he went away sobered. Jesus had given him plenty to think about. "*With God all things are possible.*"

In our witnessing we too must grapple with the awful fact of sin and use God's law lawfully, depending on the Holy Spirit to produce conviction. "*The law of the LORD is perfect, **converting** the soul*" (Ps. 19:7).