

Lesson IX.

THE RICH YOUNG RULER

August 26, 1906

Mark 10: 17-31. Commit to memory vs. 23, 24. Read Matthew 19: 16-30; Mark 10: 2-16.

GOLDEN TEXT—If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.—Matthew 16: 24.

17 And ¹when he was gone forth into the way, there ²came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

18 And Je'sus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? ³There is none good but one, that is, God.

19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not ⁴commit adultery; Do not ⁵kill; Do not steal; Do not bear false witness; ⁶Defraud not; Honour thy father and mother.

20 And he ⁷answered and said unto him, Master, all these ⁸I have observed from my youth.

21 ⁹Then Je'sus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go ¹⁰thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and ¹¹come, take up the cross, and follow me.

22 ¹²And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he ¹³had great possessions.

23 And Je'sus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

24 And the disciples were ¹⁴astonished at his words.

Revised Version—¹as he was going forth; ²ran one to him; ³none is good save one, even God; ⁴kill; ⁵commit adultery; ⁶Do not defraud; ⁷he said unto; ⁸things; ⁹And Jesus looking upon; ¹⁰Omit thy way; ¹¹come, follow me; ¹²But his countenance fell at the saying, and he went away sorrowful; ¹³was one that had; ¹⁴amazed; ¹⁵a needle's eye; ¹⁶exceedingly, saying unto him, Then who can, etc.; ¹⁷Omit and; ¹⁸all things are possible with God; ¹⁹Omit Then; ²⁰Jesus said; ²¹mother, or father, or children; ²²for the gospel's sake.

But Je'sus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!

25 It is easier for a camel to go through ¹⁵the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

26 And they were astonished ¹⁶out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?

27 ¹⁷And Je'sus looking upon them saith, With men ¹⁸it is impossible, but not with God: for ¹⁹with God all things are possible.

28 ²⁰Then Pe'ter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all and have followed thee.

29 ²¹And Je'sus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or ²²father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and ²³the gospel's.

30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

31 But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—February or March, A.D. 30; Peraea.

Connection—Jesus, still on the way to Jerusalem (see last Lesson), had just left the house where He blessed the little children, v. 13-16. (Compare Matt. 18: 1-4, Lesson I.)

I. THE WAY SOUGHT.

—17, 18. When he (Jesus) was gone forth. See Connection. Came one running; eager and breathless. He was young (Matt. 19: 20), rich (v. 22), and a ruler in a nearby synagogue, Luke 18: 18. Kneeled; as was customary before an honored teacher. Good Master; a title of great courtesy and respect. What shall I do? He did not know that the first step in pleasing God is not trying, but trusting. Inherit eternal life; a life of last-

ing joy, here and in heaven. Why callest thou me good? Jesus wishes to teach that He is "good" in a sense not understood by this inquirer. None good but... God. No man is altogether good, Rom. 3: 23. Jesus was not merely a good man, but God's Son, perfect in goodness, Matt. 16: 16, Lesson XI., Second Quarter.

II. THE WAY SHOWN.—19-31. The commandments. The inquirer wanted to do something to get eternal life. Jesus tells him to obey the

Commandments given by Moses, naming these on the Second Table (see Ex. 32: 15-19; 34: 1), which were all included in the great command, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, Matt. 19: 19. All these the young man claimed to have observed

(obeyed) from... youth.

Jesus... loved him; so beautiful and noble was his character. One thing thou lackest; to make perfect his obedience to the law of love. Sell... give, etc.; and so prove that you really love your neighbor as yourself. Take up the cross (live a self-denying life)... follow me; giving up all for Christ's sake, and thus showing himself to be really in earnest about eternal life.

III. THE WAY REJECTED.—23. His countenance fell (Rev. Ver.); became overcast, as the



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sky with clouds. He thought of the hardships and shame of the disciple life, and of all the enjoyments his wealth could purchase, and he went away, because Jesus' requirements were too hard for him; but grieved, because he had not got what he came for.

23-27. Jesus talks with his disciples about how hard it is for those that have riches, and trust in riches, to enter into His kingdom. It is easier, He says, for a camel to go through the eye of a