

What was he bidden to do?

What does the GOLDEN TEXT bid us to do?

**2. The Inheritance Rejected,** v. 22-27.

How was the ruler affected by Jesus's words?

What did Jesus say to the disciples?

What did the disciples think of this saying?

What then did Jesus say to them?

What is easier than for a rich man to get to heaven?

How did the disciples receive this saying?

What did they ask one another?

What was Jesus's reply to their question?

What is the real danger from riches? (1 Tim. 6. 9.)

What service is impossible? (Matt. 6. 24.)

What question did Peter ask? (Verse 28; Matt. 19. 27.)

What was Jesus's answer? (Verses 29-31.)

**Teachings of the Lesson.**

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. What is our greatest need?

2. What is our highest duty?

3. What is our most serious hindrance?

**QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.**

Where had Jesus been preaching?

Who had preached there before?

Of whom did he tell them?

What had Jesus started to do?

Who came running after him?

What question did he ask?

What do we know about this young man?

What law did he know and keep?

Can the law save us?

Why not?

What is greater than the law? (Rom. 13. 10.)

What did Jesus tell the young man to do?

What did he promise him?

Did the young man obey?

Do you know why?

Who can take all selfish loves out of the heart?

**REMEMBER—**

To seek God FIRST is to be obedient, wise, and right. Are you doing it?

"He is God over all."

**EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.**

**General Statement.**

Jesus is still passing through the province of Perea, on his way to Jerusalem, when a young man of noble family and abundant wealth, of blameless character and a devout worshiper, comes forth to meet him. So eager is the longing of his soul after the secret of eternal life that he comes running, falls at the Saviour's feet, and reverently asks him by what good deed he can win the joys of heaven. The Saviour refers him back to the Ten Commandments, as if to intimate that in their fulfillment is room for the loftiest virtue. With surprise at the answer the ruler declares, and honestly, that he has kept these from his childhood. A glance into the ardent face, through which shines a sincere heart, awakens the love of Christ, and seeing that the deepest need of his nature was a full consecration to God, and that his sole stumbling-block was his attachment to earthly treasure, the Master bids him abandon his possessions and henceforth follow in the company of the disciples. It was an opportunity to exchange earthly honor for the high privilege of a place in the goodly fellowship of the apostles and a name among the twelve foundation stones of the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21. 14). But his heart clung to earth, and he could not make the surrender; so he turned sadly away. Then Jesus turned from his retreating form to the twelve, and surprised them by the declaration that the most difficult of all divine works is the salvation of one whose heart clings to worldly riches.

**Verse 17. When he was gone forth.** As Jesus was starting upon his journey from the place of the last lesson. **There came one running.** From the three accounts (see parallel passages) we learn that he was a young man (Matt. 19. 22), that he was very rich (verse 22), and that he was a ruler (Luke 18. 18), probably in the local synagogue. All this would indicate that he was a faithful Jew, zealous in all the observances of worship; while his coming to Christ "running" with such a question indicates that he was not satisfied with his spiritual condition, but was hungering for a better salvation than the law could promise. (1) *There is a yearning of the soul which no outward forms of religion can content.* **Kneeling to him.** Showing thereby his reverence for Christ

and confidence in him as a religious teacher. **Good Master.** He doubtless regarded Jesus as an eminent rabbi, perhaps a prophet, but was not quite ready to address him as the Messiah of Israel. (2) *There are many such now, who will call Jesus "Teacher," but not "Redeemer."* **What shall I do.** He imagined that eternal life was to be won by some bold stroke, some grand act of righteousness, and he considered himself equal to the task, however hard. **Inherit eternal life.** Salvation in the world to come; showing that, like most of the Jews, he believed in a life hereafter. (3) *The soul of man will pay any price if it can buy its own immortality.*

**18, 19. Why callest . . . me good?** In this answer Christ shows that he had read the