

Mark 10 : 17-31—Memory Verses, 23, 24.

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 when he was gone forth into the way, there came 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? there is none good but one, that is, God.

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

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

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

22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had 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 astonished at his words. 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 the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

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

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

28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. 29 And Je'sus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the 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 RETOLD

Once, as Jesus was traveling on the east side of Jordan, a rich young man of high position came running to meet Him. He had been taught by his Jewish teachers that men could be saved by doing many good deeds, but in his own heart he did not think this was enough, and, learning that the teachings of Jesus were very different, he came to Him with this question, "Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus first reproved him for following a bad habit, which many of the Jews had, of using flattering titles to those to whom they were speaking, when in reality they meant nothing by them, and then went on to say, "You know, yourself, what rules the Commandments give for living a pure life."

"But, Master," said the young ruler, "all my life I have kept these Commandments. Is there nothing else that I must do besides?" And Jesus looked lovingly on the young

man, for He knew he was in earnest about wishing to live a godly life; but He knew also, that he loved his wealth more than he loved God, so, to test him and show him that in spite of keeping all the Commandments, he still came far short of being perfect, Jesus said, "If you are willing to give up your riches to God's service, and to come and follow Me as My disciple, then you will receive in heaven the reward of eternal life."

When the young man heard what Jesus said, and that this was the only way to gain eternal life, he went away very sorrowful, for he felt as if he could not part with all his riches and treasures. Jesus looked after him sadly, then turned to His disciples, saying, that it was hard for those who were very fond of riches to enter into the kingdom of God. The care of their wealth occupied all their thoughts, and their own pleasures were more to them than doing God's will.