If you will open your Bibles back to our scripture reading of the day (**Luke 18:18-27).** We will be taking a closer look at the rich young ruler talked about in the text here. Often, we emphasis what this man did wrong and we overlook some of the things he did right. So today we are going to look at the right things about him and then we will make one very real and immediate application from what he did wrong.

**Came to the Right Person:**

The first thing this young man did was that he came to the right person to ask his question. In **Mark 10:17** it says that this man ***“ran up and knelt before Him…”*** Many who have questions of eternal importance will go to the wrong source. They will ask their friends, family, coworkers, strangers on the internet. Some will go to the ends of the earth before they come to Jesus with their questions. This young man did not, he came to Jesus because he knew he had *the* answer. He did not waste time on the celebrity preachers of the day (Pharisees and Sadducees) or the latest self-help book (if such existed). He went to Jesus

This is because Jesus is the **only** one that can give us the answers we seek.

* We are told in scripture that Jesus has the only words of life **John 6.68**
* His word contains all truth **John 17:17**
* His word is all sufficient and contains **everything** pertaining to life and godliness **2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3**

The bible also tells us that it is **only** in Him that men have salvation, peace, and an eternal hope.

* **Acts 4:12 *“and there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”***

So, the rich young ruler very much did come to the right person to answer his question. In fact, he came to the only person that could answer his question.

**Asked the Right Question:**

The second thing this young ruler did right was that he ask the right question. Not that it was the specific question he asked but the kind of question he asked. He asked an earnest spiritual question, ***“What shall I do to inherit eternal life?”***

You can tell a lot about a person by the questions they ask. There are a lot of questions out there that are asked with no intention of wanting an answer.

* **Matthew 22:23-28** – Some questions were aimed at making Jesus look foolish. They thought that no matter the answer He was going to look foolish.
* **Matthew 21**:**23-27** – Some questions were aimed at trying to get Jesus in a bind. If He says God, blasphemy. If He says men, we can dismiss Him.
* **John 4:17-20** – Some questions were posed to change the subject

But there are other questions we find in questions, right questions, that were asked earnestly seeking an answer by hearts who wanted an answer.

* **Acts 8:34 *“please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or someone else?***
* **Acts 8:36 *“What prevents me from being baptized?”***
* **Acts 16:30 *“What must I do to be saved?”***
* **Acts 22:16 *“Why do you delay?”***
* **Matthew 16:26 “*For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?”***

This man was asking a right question, he was concerned and wanted an answer.

**Made Right Life Choices:**

Another right thing this young man did was that he had made good life choices from his youth. ***“All these things I have kept from my youth.”*** This young man understood the importance of serving God in the early years of his life and not postponing it for later. The choices we make in our early years ***will*** affect us throughout our lives.

* The wisdom writer in **Ecclesiastes 11:9** tells us that youth is a time to be enjoyed but let it be known that every act will be brought to judgment. That is why the writer concludes the book with ***“the conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgement, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.”* (Eccl. 12:13-14).**
* The great characters of faith did not become great overnight
  + Paul **Acts 26:4-7** said that it was from his youth that he decided to follow God
  + Timothy was brought up knowing the scriptures **2 Timothy 1:5, 3:15**
  + Daniel made up his mind not to defile himself in the king’s court **Daniel 1:8**
* These and more knew the importance of importance of serving while they still had the strength of youth. We will reap what we sow (**Gal. 6:7**).

Now, back to the text, we know that he did not keep the law perfectly. No one did but Jesus, and we know that all men have transgressed the law of God **Romans 3:23.**

**But, He Lacked One Thing, Heart:**

However, despite these right things this young man was still found wanting. In Mark’s account in **Mark 10:21** we read ***“Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him…”*** A love that told the truth. In Luke’s account Jesus said in verse 22 ***“one thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”*** Here Jesus really answers the first question, what must I do to inherit eternal life? His answer is the same today as it was then, forsake all that you have and follow me.

* **Luke 14:26-27** Jesus requires complete and total commitment. Not because He has set the standard so high, but because it is the only thing we can do. It is the bare minimum and the maximum.
* Jesus said, ***“He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it”* (Matthew 10:39).** It is only when we are completely and wholly lost in Him do we find ourselves. It is only when we have died to self, do we begin to live.

This young man was not yet willing to give up his earthly wealth in exchange for eternal wealth. He was preoccupied with the cares of this life, which for him was his land and wealth. **Luke 8:14** in the parable of the sower we read about the seed that fell among the thorns and it was choked out. This was that man.

Jesus then says in **Luke 18:25-27 “*For 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.” They who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” But He said, “The things that are impossible with people are possible with God.””***

* It is hard because with wealth there is comfort and with comfort there is apathy. One begins to trust in himself and their work instead of the Almighty.
* The other question in the text, who can be saved? These men who by no means rich assumed, like many of us today, that if they just had money life would be easier. Surely the rich could be saved because they could afford to do the good works and have the time to devote to righteous living.
* Jesus answered, with men yes, it is impossible to be saved. Nothing you can do will ever be good enough to merit salvation. It is only by God are mean saved.

**Hebrews 2:9 cf. Romans 6**