

Di122 Essentials of Christianity

Lesson Di122-3 Salvation—Submission to Jesus

Children bring joy to the heart of a mother. Fathers also have a sense of pride and hope for their sons and daughters. Jesus was never too busy for the children. The people were bringing their babies for him to touch and to bless. He made sure that he did not neglect any one, telling his disciples to allow each child to come to him. The children were very important to Jesus because of their openness, trust, and simple faith. This lesson teaches the third important part of salvation. It is submitting to Jesus in your daily life. God knows your heart. He will show you how to live in a way that is pleasing to him. Pray to him each day with the faith of a child. Then obey what he tells you to do.

While the people were pressing in to be part of the blessing of the children, a wealthy young man came to Jesus. He asked, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He was sure that he knew the answer, but he wanted this teacher to confirm his belief. What a surprise was in store for him!

The rich young ruler got Jesus’ attention. He asked the one question all of us need to ask, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” His story teaches us a great lesson.

Jesus answered with a question—“Why do you call me good?” Then he stated, “No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother'" (Luke 18:18-20).

Jesus’ words seemed sensible to the rich young ruler. He had kept those commands. Then he realized that Jesus was giving him a principle to live by, which would change everything. Jesus said that following the law is good. There is one more thing, however, that is required for entrance into eternal life. This one thing is that your heart must be settled. Your heart must seek the kingdom of God instead of the kingdom of this world. A Christian’s heart must be settled on making Jesus king of their life. Jesus said to the young man, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me" (Luke 18:22).

Jesus was digging deep into the ruler’s heart. He was touching the problem that ruled the young man’s heart. His problem was his lack of submission to the King of Kings. He thought he had met the requirements for eternal life with God by keeping rules. But, he had one very large problem. He loved the worldly things of his life more than God. He had decided possessions were most important. In fact he felt that these things were more valuable than following Jesus. If the ruler gave them up, he would show that following and pleasing God were more important than pleasing himself. On another occasion Jesus said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matt 6:33).

Jesus knows what is best for each one of us. He does not ask every believer to sell all their belongings. But he could see that this man’s possessions stood between him and God. The

rich man wanted rules to keep, not a relationship. False religions are based on works, keeping rules. Eternal life cannot be earned. It is a gift to be received by faith. The rich young ruler lived by the rules, but had no assurance of eternal life. Jesus wanted more for him—much more. Jesus was teaching him that if he would readjust his priorities God would open a life of greater reward now and forever. He not only would be forgiven but he would have a relationship with Christ. He would be with Jesus as he healed and restored people. He would be with Jesus as he brought life to the dead. He would be living in the kingdom of God as his submissive servant.

There is a wonderful song that says: “I am weak but you are strong, Jesus keep me from all wrong. I’ll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea. Daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.” If a person accepts Jesus as their Savior and walks with him, they will inherit eternal life.

Every person needs to examine their values in life. Do you value what God values? The rich young ruler went away sad. He was not willing to do what Jesus asked. To turn away from Christ and go your own way is tragic. He had asked Jesus about eternal life, but he valued his wealth more than he valued following Jesus. Just keeping a set of rules will never get someone into the kingdom of God. Submission to the Lord will lead to a walk of faith in the kingdom of God. We must come with the trust and faith of a little child.

Jesus always exposes our motives for following him. Submission, with his help, will lead to a walk of faith in the Kingdom of God. It is one of the essentials of Christianity. Ask yourself if King Jesus is in the highest position of authority in your life? How is that reflected in your work, conversations, and relationships? Think about what it means to have faith in Jesus and become more submissive and obedient to him. You can know that you have eternal life!

This story is **important** because it teaches that eternal life cannot be gained by keeping a set of rules. A person must decide to submit to Christ and live in relationship with him. Then they will have the assurance of eternal life.

The **main point** of this lesson is that submission to Jesus always brings us to a closer relationship with him and obedience to his will. Wanting to go our own way puts distance between Jesus and us.

To **review** what you have learned in this lesson, answer the following questions:

1. What would have happened in the ruler’s life had he obeyed Jesus and followed him?
A. [Pause] If you answered, “The ruler would have been part of what Jesus was doing as he ministered to other people,” you answered correctly.
2. Why did Jesus ask the rich young ruler to sell his possessions, give the money to the poor and follow him?
A. [Pause] If you answered, “Because his worldly possessions were most important to him and Jesus should occupy that position,” you are correct.
3. How can a person inherit eternal life?
A. [Pause] If you answered that a person must submit to Christ and live in relationship to

him as his or her Savior, you are right.

Your **assignment** is to listen to this lesson several more times until you can tell it to someone else. Then share the story of the rich young man and his question to Christ. Discuss with the person the difference between just keeping rules and really having a relationship with Jesus. Can eternal life be earned? Or, is it a gift to be received by faith as someone walks with Jesus?

Memorize this verse: "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33).

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