

# Christ and the Rich Young Ruler

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Matthew 19:16–24; Mark 10:17–25; Luke 18:18–25

*Then Jesus 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. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. Mark 10:21–22*

A rich young ruler came to Jesus asking, “Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (Luke 18:18). Jesus told him to keep the commandments (see Luke 18:19–20; see also Matthew 19:16–19; Mark 10:17–19).

The young man said that he had obeyed the commandments since he was a child, but Jesus looked upon him with love and told him of one more commandment he needed to keep (see Matthew 19:20; Mark 10:20; Luke 18:21). “Go and sell that thou hast,” Jesus said, “and give to the

poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me” (Matthew 19:21; see also Mark 10:21; Luke 18:22).

When the young man heard this, he went away sorrowful because he was very rich and did not want to give away all his costly possessions (see Matthew 19:22; Mark 10:22; Luke 18:23). Then Jesus said, “How hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!” (Mark 10:24; see also Matthew 19:23–24; Mark 10:23, 25; Luke 18:24–25).

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## Summary

A rich young ruler came to Jesus and asked what he should do to have eternal life. Jesus told the man that he must obey the commandments. When the rich young man said that he had been obedient to the laws of God, Jesus said the man

needed to do one more thing. He needed to sell all he had, give to the poor, and follow Jesus. The rich young man was very sad. He did not want to do what Jesus told him to do. He loved his riches more than he loved God.

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