

V. 17. A wealthy, upright young man approaches Jesus.

Vv. 24-26. The attitude of the disciples can be inferred from their response to Jesus after the departure of the young man.

Vv. 17-18. The young man calls Jesus ‘good teacher’, - Jesus’ response?

Q. What does Jesus’ response say about who he is?

Vv. 19-20. Jesus points the young man to the commandments – which the young man claims to have obeyed.

V. 21. Jesus does not question the rather extravagant claims of the young man, but lovingly challenges him. Jesus challenges the young man to give up that which is holding him back from following Jesus wholeheartedly – his wealth.

Jesus’ compassion for the young man does not mean he is unwilling to challenge him.

Reflection/Response. Meeting Jesus is comforting and liberating, yet also disturbing and demanding. What is our experience of meeting Jesus and following him?

Vv. 17, 21. Notice how Jesus changes the focus from ‘inheriting eternal life’, to treasures in Heaven (V. 25 ‘entering the Kingdom of God’) and following Jesus. The first focuses on the world to come, while Jesus’ focus is on people following him, being under God’s rule now, which will last for eternity. The man must act now to become a follower of Jesus and therefore come under God’s rule (Kingdom).

Vv. 21-26. Jesus astonishes his disciples when he says, ‘how hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!’ They assumed that the rich were those who were blessed by God, so the rich would be the first to enter the Kingdom of God. The disciples recognised rightly that ‘being saved’, meant being in fellowship with God now and for eternity, but despaired about who could be saved.

V. 27. Jesus makes it clear that salvation is impossible for humans but is made possible by God.

Vv.28-31. Following Jesus will have costs, but we will ‘receive’ much in this ‘present age’, and the promise of eternal life in the age to come.

Reflection/Response.

Salvation is what God achieves for us and freely offers to us.

This is God’s grace, His undeserved love and fellowship made possible through the costly death of Jesus to remove the penalty of our sin.

How do we receive God’s offer of salvation and begin following Jesus? (see Acts 2 Repent, believe and follow Jesus).

How do we share this good news with others?

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