

## THREE ATTITUDES THAT ROB US OF HEAVEN

Secondly, having wealth can cause you to be attached to your possessions. The rich, young, ruler was told by Jesus to sell his possessions. His reaction? *“He went away sorrowful”* (Matt. 19.22). It is not wrong to have wealth if you keep things in perspective. Paul told Timothy to instruct the rich *“not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God”* (1 Tim. 6.17). Yet having riches adds an additional challenge to serving God. No wonder Jesus said that *“it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God”* (Matt. 19.23).

If you trust in your riches more than God, you will have a difficult time living as a Christian. If you love your possessions and make them a priority in your life, you will have a difficult time serving the Lord.

**ATTITUDE #3:** “I am powerful. No one tells me what to do.” Those who have this attitude see themselves as being above the law. They have no respect for the laws of God and resent being told that they must submit to God’s authority.

There are two problems with this attitude. First, this attitude causes us to have an unrealistic view of ourselves. Paul warned that we are *“not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think”* (Rom. 12.3). Submitting to the laws of God require a mindset of humility. If you have an attitude where you have an exalted view of yourself, you will have difficult time serving God.

Secondly, this attitude removes you from the life of others. We are here to serve one another (Gal. 5.13; 1 Pet. 5.5). Staying in the same context of Romans 12, Paul writes not to *“set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble”* (Rom. 12.16). That is hard to do if you have an exalted view of yourself.

A man that is described as young, rich, and in a position of authority came to Jesus with eagerness, respect, and trust. He knew that he was lost, and he was looking for Jesus for the answer. It would have been easy for him to think he was safe. He could have taken on the attitude that he was young and had plenty of time. He was rich and did not need anything. He was a ruler and did not take orders from anyone. But he came to Jesus seeking salvation with eagerness.

Do not let your circumstances cause you to develop the attitude that you do not need God in your life. All have sinned and are in need of God’s grace (Rom. 3.23,24). CLP

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*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”*  
-Mark 16.15

June 14, 2020

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### MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

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We do not know his name. We do not know his marital status. We do not know what he liked to do with his spare time. However, there are four details that we know about the man who approached Jesus with that all-important question.

We know that he was a young man. In Matthew 19.20, reference is made to the *“young man.”* The word “young” is translated from a Greek word that suggests a man under the age of forty [Strong].

We also know that he was a rich man. In Matthew 19.22, we learn that this man had *“great possessions.”* Luke’s account describes him as being *“very rich”* (Luke 18.23). Literally, the phrase means, “abounding with” [Strong].

The third detail we know about this man is that he was a ruler. Staying in Luke’s account, we are told that he was *“a certain ruler”* (Luke 18.18). There are rulers of the synagogue whose responsibilities surrounded the care of preparations for worship. There are also the chief priests who are referenced as rulers (Luke 23.13). The Pharisees are described as rulers (John 3.1). We do not know what kind of ruler he was, but he was a man of authority.

The fourth detail that is revealed about this man is that he was lost. He knew he was lost by the question he asked: *“What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”* (Matt. 19.17). [inside]

## THE ESSENTIALITY OF OBEDIENCE

### ACTS 5:29

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. My life is to be governed by every syllable that comes from the mouth of God. (1 John 1.6; Matt. 4.4)
2. Peter responded to the high priest saying, “*We ought to obey God rather than man.*” (Acts 5.29).
3. I am to be obedient to God no matter the inconvenience and seeming insignificance of His commands.

#### I. OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES

- A. The command not to eat of the fruit. (Gen. 3.1-6)
  1. Satan tempted Eve to eat the fruit. (Gen. 3.1).
  2. Notice Eve’s response. (Gen. 3.2; cf. 2.17)
  3. What was wrong with eating fruit? (Gen. 3.6,11)
- B. The command to consecrate Aaron. (Ex. 29.15-30)
  1. The blood of a ram is to be placed on the right ear, the right thumb, and the right big toe. (Ex. 29.19,20)
  2. What is the significance? If Moses changed even the smallest detail, would it be obedience?
- C. The command to keep the Sabbath. (Num. 15.32-39)
  1. Capital punished for picking up sticks? (vs. 32-36)
  2. God gives Israel a reminder: When I say to obey, you better obey. (Ex. 37-39)
- D. The command to wash in the Jordan River. (2 Kings 5.1-14)
  1. Naaman was furious. (v. 11).
  2. When was Naaman cured of leprosy? (v. 12).

#### II. NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES

- A. Galatians 5.16-23: Flesh vs. Spirit
  1. The works of the flesh (vs. 19-21).
  2. The fruit of the Spirit. (vs. 22,23)
- B. Ephesians 4.1-6: Walking worthy of the gospel.
  1. Attitudes that are needed. (vs. 1-3)
  2. Doctrines that are needed. (vs. 4-6)
- C. Colossians 3.12-14: Which attributes can we ignore?
- D. 2 Peter 1.5-11: Can I be someone who never stumbles? Yes! If I obey God.

**CONCLUSION:** Can I leave out the conditions of salvation?

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Matthew 19.16-26 tells of a man who approached Jesus asking about what he needed to do to be saved. This was a man who was young, wealthy, and in a position of authority. In spite of all that he had, he was still lost and was eager to know how to be saved. That brings to mind three attitudes which, if we are not careful, can rob us of heaven.

**ATTITUDE #1:** “I am young and have plenty of time to worry about my spiritual condition.” It is a common attitude for individuals to believe they have time to change before it is eternally too late. Those who are teenagers or even in their early twenties see themselves as invincible. They have their whole future ahead of them. It is with that viewpoint that many young individuals put off their spiritual needs in favor of more immediate and worldly desires.

There are two problems with this mindset. First, there is no guarantee of tomorrow. How many people have lost their lives in a car accident thinking they still had time? The apostle Paul warned that we are to “*walk circumspectly...redeeming the time*” (Eph. 5.15,16).

Secondly, time changes things. Life circumstances can harden our hearts. A prolonged sinful lifestyle can become a habit much harder to break. Thus Peter warned about those who “*cannot cease from sin*” (2 Pet. 2.14). Paul refers to those who were “*by nature children of wrath*” (Eph. 2.3). These were people who had practiced sin for so long that it had become part of their nature. So much so, they found it difficult to cease from sin.

If you put off thinking about your spiritual condition because you think you have enough time to worry about it later, you will have a difficult time serving the Lord.

**ATTITUDE #2:** “I am rich and have need of nothing.” How do you define being rich? Being rich is simply the idea of having everything that you need. If you not only have your daily necessities met, but have more than what you need, you are rich.

There are two problems with this mindset. First, those who see themselves as not having any needs think they do not need God. It was this attitude expressed by the church in Laodicea. Jesus blamed their lack of passion on having the mindset of “*I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing.*” However, in their state of material prosperity, they did not realize that spiritually, they were “*wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.*” (Rev. 3.17). [back]