

Tale of Two Rich Men

The Rich Young Ruler

Luke 18

Background

- The only person in the Gospels who came to the feet of Jesus who went away worse than he came.
- Learn from other passages that he was a rich, young ruler.
- Not a ruler in the Sanhedrin (too young, too respectful).

Background

- Asked wrong question (vs. 18) What must I do to inherit eternal life?
- Wanted to know what he must DO.
- His question and response shows he did not know four things:

1. He did not know who Jesus was.

- Jesus wanted to know why he said Jesus was good. Only God is good.
- C.S. Lewis - Mere Christianity
- Story: man who walked aisle in church, wanted an idol of Jesus.

2. He did not know what the law demanded.

- First table of the law (Deut. 6:5) - Love Lord all your heart, soul, might.
- Second table of the law (Lev. 19:18) - Love neighbor as yourself.
- Ten Commandments (1-9)

2. He did not know what the law demanded.

- Jesus didn't deal with 10th commandment: covet.
- Deals with it in His response to the rich, young ruler.
- He was guilty of coveting.

3. He did not know who he was.

- He had a superficial view of his own sin. He was a law breaker and sinner.
- Ask Americans if they are going to heaven, they will answer I hope so.
- They hope that God grades on the curve and will let them in.

3. He did not know who he was.

- Importance of the moral law.
- Ray Comfort - lying, murderous, adulterer.
- Talking about repentance: changing your mind, changing your direction.

4. He did not know the value of eternal life.

- Two things he would not give up: his pride and his possessions.
- Wealth was a sign of God's blessing, and poverty was a sign of God's judgment.
- Jesus challenged that interpretation.

4. He did not know the value of eternal life.

- How can a rich man be saved?
- Easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.
- What is impossible with men is possible with God (vs. 27).

Zacchaeus

Luke 19

Background

- Zacchaeus means “righteous one.” He was not living up to his name.
- In Rome, the taxman would tell you what you owe and skim off the top a generous portion for himself.
- This was a great job for someone with no conscience, no scruples.

Background

- Zacchaeus: Probably felt, there is no hope for me. I've made such a mess of my life.
- Crowd: Probably expected Jesus to tell a story of the publican who is condemned by his actions.
- Zacchaeus discovered four things that changed his life:

1. No one inherits eternal life by doing good.

- The gospel is not a self-help program where we do good to merit eternal life.
- That is not what the Bible teaches.
- All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

2. The key to righteousness is conversion.

- Zacchaeus changed from the inside out and became a new person.
- Although the penalty for defrauding someone (Lev. 6) was 20%, Zacchaeus promised to repay four-fold.
- He would also give half to the poor.

3. Zacchaeus became a true son of Abraham.

- He was a Jew so he was already a biological son of Abraham.
- He became a spiritual son of Abraham at conversion.
- If you know Jesus, you are special.

4. Jesus is the savior of sinners.

- The gospel is for sinners. Jesus knows you cannot save yourself.
- If you believe you are not good enough for Jesus to save you, you need to understand that you aren't good enough to save yourself, but you are a good candidate for Jesus to save you.

Application

William Borden



- In 1904 William Borden graduated from Chicago high school, heir to Borden Dairy estate.
- Travelled the world, decided to prepare for mission field.
- Wrote in his Bible: **No Reserves.**

William Borden



- At Yale University, began prayer meeting, at end of 1st year, 150 freshman.
- By his senior year, 1000 of 1300 students were meeting.
- Upon graduation wrote: **No Retreats.**

William Borden



- Went on to graduate work at Princeton Seminary.
- Sailed for China, stopped in Egypt to study Arabic, spinal meningitis, within a month Borden was dead.
- In his Bible found: **No Regrets.**

Samuel Ekwue

