

How Much Do You Love Jesus?

"Jesus looked at him and loved him.

'One thing you lack,' he said. 'sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.

Then come, follow me."

Mark 10:21 NIV

When the enthusiastic young ruler came to Jesus he had a most important question to ask the Lord. "Good teacher what must I do to inherit eternal life?" No question is as important as this one for anyone in any age.

The answer Jesus gave to this question seems puzzling. He said that the young man should sell everything he owned and join the twelve in following Jesus. Why did Jesus tell the young man to reduce himself to the lowest level of poverty in order to inherit eternal life?

The answer is found in the reaction of the man to Jesus' request. He went away sad and refused to give up his wealth in order to follow Jesus. The young man loved Jesus but he loved his wealth more.

In this story we once again

see Jesus demonstrating His ability to know the hearts of people. The young man wanted eternal life but he wanted his wealth even more.

We should not take from this story that Jesus wants everyone to sell all their possessions in order to have treasure in heaven.

What Jesus did to the young man was show him just how much he trusted in wealth and how impossible it was for him to trust the Saviour while he served a god of gold.

Many people today in western society have more faith in their wealth, their excellent medical system, their retirement savings—than they have in the Lord.

A few years ago I was in Malawi, one of the world's poorest countries ministering to Christians there. They impressed me with

their enthusiastic worship and devotion to the Lord. Yet they had almost nothing of wealth. They were among the poorest people in the world. Their treasure was the Lord plus nothing. I learned from those wonderful people to treasure the Lord above everything.

Are you sorrowful today because you are poor and without much by way of earthly treasure? You should rejoice because now you can give all of your trust and love to the Saviour and offer Him heartfelt praise.

The person who has Christ and all the wealth of this life is no richer than the poorest person who only has Christ. Be content with what you have Christian friend because you have the Lord and He is enough.

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