

ONE THING THOU LACKEST

MARK 10:17-22

Text: Mark 10:22

Mark 10:21

²¹ 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.

Introduction:

Sadly, we live in a world that is filled with tragedy.

Over the last few months and years, we have become accustomed to hearing of tragedies in the news. The World Trade Center disaster, the fighting in Israel and Afghanistan, the threat of nuclear war between Pakistan and India, all remind us that we live in a world where tragedy can be seen on every have.

However there is another tragedy that takes place every day. This tragedy is not the loss of property or even a life, but the loss of the soul.

In our passage we have such a tragedy.

There is a lot that is good or right here.

- Here is a young man who came to the right Person
- He came at the right time.
- He came asking the right questions
- He received the right answers.

The tragedy was that he made the wrong decision.

Here is a man who suffered the greatest tragedy of all.

He came close to salvation, but walked away into Hell.

In our text we see that this man was:

- Young (vs. 20)
- Rich (vs. 22)

In Luke we learn that he was a ruler.

Luke 18:18

¹⁸ And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

Notice:

1. THIS MAN'S SPIRITUAL DILEMMA (VS. 17)

Mark 10:17

¹⁷ And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

He comes running to Jesus and he bows before Him.

His actions certainly show the desire in the young man's heart.

His haste shows his understanding of the urgency of his need.

He bows showing his view of the Lord.

He may have even heard the words of the Lord earlier.

Mark 10:15

¹⁵ Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

But we must understand:

Sincerity alone is not enough to save the soul.

If it were, many members of cults would be saved.

Most of them want to go to Heaven, but they have misconceptions.

Notice this young man's:

Mark 10:17

¹⁷ And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

A. Faulty Understanding of Salvation

He wanted to "DO"

Salvation is not about "DO" it is "DONE"

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

John 19:30

³⁰ When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

B. Faulty Understanding of Self

He wanted to "self" involved.

He failed to understand that all self could ever produce is corruption.

Isaiah 64:6

⁶ But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Isaiah 53:6

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Romans 3:10-13

¹⁰ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. ¹² They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. ¹³ Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips:

C. Faulty Understanding of the Savior

He refers to Jesus as “Master.” This word means “teacher.”

He saw Jesus as one who could teach him the way to God.

This is the same error many people have made today concerning Jesus.

They think a mental knowledge is sufficient.

2. THIS MAN'S SPIRITUAL DISCOVERY (VS. 17-21)

Mark 10:17-21

¹⁷ And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? ¹⁸ And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is none good but one, that is, God.* ¹⁹ Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. ²⁰ And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. ²¹ 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.

As this young man speaks with the Lord, the Lord reveals the truth to this young man in two important areas.

A. He Learned of His Spiritual Condition

During his interview with the Lord, he was confronted with the reality of who he is.

He had to learn that he was not righteous, as does anyone who wants to be saved.

Luke 19:10

¹⁰ For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Mark 2:17

¹⁷ When Jesus heard *it*, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

1. He Discovered That He Was Really Poor

Mark 10:22

²² And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

His money could buy him a lot, but it could not buy him what his soul needed.

- Money can buy a bed, but not sleep
- Money can buy food, but not an appetite
- Money can buy medicine, but not health
- Money can buy a house, but not a home
- Money can buy a diamond, but not love
- Money can buy a church pew, but not eternal life!

It doesn't matter what you possess; religion, goodness and kindness, or even some wealth, it cannot buy everlasting life.

Regardless of what you have, until you have Jesus, you are bankrupt spiritually. What lost men need cannot be bought with money.

2. He Discovered He Was Really Pitiful

He arrived, thinking that he was a moral man.
(vs. 18-21)

Mark 10:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is none good but one, that is, God.* ¹⁹ Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. ²⁰ And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

He learned that he was lacking spiritually (vs. 21)

Mark 10:21

²¹ 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.

You see, the Lord is not teaching works salvation here. He is merely getting to the root of this man's spiritual problem. He is showing him that regardless of what he may think about himself, in the eyes of the Lord, he is still a lost sinner in need of a Savior!

There is no sadder figure in all the world than a person who has been deceived into thinking they are right with God, when they are still lost in sin!

Verse 20 reveals the depths of his delusion.

Mark 10:20

²⁰ And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

Many people are like the Laodiceans, Rev. 3:17: Blind to their own needs!

Revelation 3:17

¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Imagine a life lived in deception, to awake in Hell!

Many will.

Matthew 7:21-22

²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

2 Peter 1:10

¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

2 Corinthians 13:5

⁵Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

3. He discovered he was really a prisoner

This man thought that he owned a lot of things. What he discovered is that his things owned him!

B. He Learned of the Savior's Credentials

When he arrived, he thought Jesus was just another teacher. When he left, he knew that Jesus was God He was confronted with the truth about the Savior.

1. He discovered that the Lord was patient

The Lord took the time to meet this young man just where he was and to lead him gently to the place of decision. When the Lord looked at him, He did so with kind eyes and a compassionate heart. The Bible tells us that He "loved" him! Regardless of his condition and the baggage he was carrying from his past, the Lord loved this young man and wanted to save him.

2. He discovered that the Lord was plain

Jesus pulled no punches with this young man, but He plainly told him all the truth. His words "one thing thou

lackest" is a commentary on this man's spiritual condition.

3. He discovered that the Lord was precise

Mark 10:21

²¹ 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.

It interesting that the Lord said that this man lacked one thing but He gives this man a threefold command

- Liquidate your possessions

This would release him from the bondage of his present god

- Take up your cross

This would identify him with the Lord and His death.

Death to self and self-effort

- Follow me

This is the crux of the matter! He was called to a place of decision, where he was to leave his old life behind and go with Jesus from that moment on. He was to place his faith and his life in the hands of the Lord.

This is what salvation is all about! When God brings you to that moment of decision, you are to trust Him, follow Him, and leave everything behind for Him.

3. THIS MAN'S SPIRITUAL DECISION (vs. 22)

Mark 10:22

²² And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

A. He Chose Darkness Over Light

He left still enveloped in the cloud of spiritual darkness that surrounded him when he arrived. He was a sad figure as he walked away from the only hope of salvation he had.

B. He Chose Defeat Over Liberty

This young man loved his stuff more than he wanted to go to Heaven. He did not realize that he was trapped in the prison of materialism and that all the things he loved so dearly were his cell keepers.

C. He Chose Death Over Life

When this young man went away he was turning his back on the only One who could save him.

In that moment of time, he said, "I'd rather keep what I have and go to Hell than give up one cent and go to

Heaven. I will not make a commitment to follow Jesus Christ."

Close:

Though we don't know how this man's story turned out, but we have nothing in Scripture that tells of his salvation, and if He never trusted Christ as his Savior, he's in Hell today.

Today I ask are you saved? Have you allowed something to hinder you coming to Him?

Is there someone who you know needing someone to share with them the truth once again?

Those who have been saved, are you following Him, dead to self?