

# COUNTERFEITS

## *Follow the Money or Follow Jesus*

### *Mark 10:17-30*

#### ***The Rich Young Ruler***

***Mark 10:17-18 (KJV)*** <sup>17</sup> ***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?*** <sup>18</sup> ***And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.***

- Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem and He encounters a man, a man according to Matthew 19, our text in Mark 10, and Luke 18 was *young, a ruler, and he was rich*
- The rich, young, ruler came running to Jesus and knelt before Him asking God Master, what do I need to *do* to inherit eternal life?
- The rich young ruler did some good things, he was:
  - *Eager*
  - *Humble*
  - *Respectful*
  - *Confessing his need*
- The rich young ruler believed that eternal life existed
- Jesus asked the rich young ruler why are you calling Me good? There's only One who's good and that is God
- Jesus is telling the rich young ruler, if he's calling Him good, then He is God
- The question the rich young ruler asked was what do I need "*to do*" to inherit eternal life?
- The rich young ruler's view of eternal life was a matter of "earning it" or "deserving it"; it was not matter of relationship with Jesus
- Eternal life is not based on "transactions", it is based on a relationship with Jesus
- Jesus wanted the rich young ruler to see the that there is not eternal life without acknowledging Jesus as the Son of God

#### ***Keep the Commandments***

<sup>19</sup> ***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.*** <sup>20</sup> ***And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.***

- Jesus says if you want eternal life *know or keep* the commandments
- Jesus says don't commit adultery, don't murder anyone, don't steal, don't lie, don't cheat anyone, and honor your father and mother,
- These commandments are *second* 5 of the 10 commandments which has to do with our relationship with his neighbor
- These are only 5 of the 10 Commandments? Why?
- These deal with relationships, if your relationship with the people you interact with daily is not right, your relationship with God will be poor
- It's impossible to have a *God-to-man* relationship when you are not obeying what God has said about *man-to-man* relationships
- The rich young ruler *boldly* told Jesus he's been keeping "all" these commandments since he was a youth

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- What the rich young ruler should have said, “there’s not way I have kept or can keep the law of God completely, I need a savior
- The keeping of the commandments deals with *our actions* and *our heart*
- God looks at the heart as well as the actions

#### **One Thing Left**

<sup>21</sup> **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.** <sup>22</sup> **And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.**

- Jesus looks the rich young ruler in the eye, He loved him
- Jesus loved the rich young ruler
- Jesus says there’s one thing you *haven’t done*
- If we really want to do the works of God, it must begin with believing on Jesus, whom the Father has sent **John 6:29 (NLT) 29 Jesus told them, “This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent.”**
- Jesus told the rich young ruler to go and sell all your possessions, give the money to the poor, you will have treasure in heaven, and come take up the cross and Follow Me
- It is true we are saved by grace, but we can’t forget another great truth: *to follow Christ is to serve and minister to our neighbor*
- If we do not love and minister to our neighbor (above ourselves), then we do not love God **1 John 4:20 (NLT) 20 If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?**
- Jesus gave the rich young ruler a personal invitation to follow Him, but the invitation was conditional; let go of your dependence on worldly wealth
- What Jesus said made the rich young ruler sad and he went away grieving because he had great wealth
- The rich young ruler was “interested” in eternal life, but when given the chance to follow Jesus, he chose to follow the money
- The rich young ruler left Jesus grieving and chose the counterfeit, when he desired the real thing
- Money and material things are a common counterfeit the people, even believers fall for
- Money fails to deliver on its promises
- The rich young ruler had money and possessions, yet he was grieving and sorrowful
- Jesus warns us not to place our hope and trust in earthly wealth **Matthew 6:19-20 (NLT) 19 “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.**

#### **The Danger of the Counterfeit**

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***23 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! 24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. 26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? 27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.***

- Jesus told His disciples it's difficult for the rich to enter into the kingdom of heaven
- Jesus loved the rich young ruler and wanted the best for him, but the rich young ruler followed the money instead of Jesus
- The enticement of wealth, possessions, prestige can easily create spiritual problems for us
- You may say Jesus isn't talking to me because I'm not rich; you *are* rich
- If you have more than today needs; you're rich
- Jesus says the reason it's hard for the rich to enter into the kingdom of heaven is because they place their *trust* in their riches
- When we trust in our money and possessions, we risk money and possessions pulling us away from God
- When we trust our riches, we focus on what money can do for us and not on how we can use our money to serve others
- We forget that there are some things money can't buy
- Jesus said it would be easier for a camel to go through the eye of needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God
- But *with God* all things are possible; God grace is sufficient to save a rich person
- God is not against us having wealth and material possessions, He's against wealth and possessions possessing us!
- ***With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.***

#### ***What About Us?***

***28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. 29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.***

- Peter just saw the rich young ruler who had great potential walk away from Jesus
- Then Peter heard Jesus say how *hard* it is for a rich person to enter into the kingdom of heaven
- Peter Jesus say what impossible for man, with God all things are possible
- Peter says to Jesus, "We've given up all to follow You"
- Have we disciples *done* enough, have we *given up* enough?

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- Peter wants to know will he and disciples have eternal life, will we be rewarded?
- Jesus makes a special promise to the disciples and all believers who sacrifice for Jesus' sake and the sake of the gospel
- Jesus says to all who have left houses, family, land for His sake and the sake of the gospel's shall receive now *in this life a hundredfold* in houses, family, land, persecutions, and eternal life
- That doesn't mean we'll have multiples homes, families, land everywhere, etc., it does mean that you have fellow believers that could house you, give you a ride when your car is down, several homes to have a meal and fellowship, etc.
- Jesus promises to bless our lives now and eternally because:
  - We have put Him first ***Matthew 6:33 (NLT) 33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.***
  - We work so that we have enough for our needs and enough to give to others
  - We know that when we give, God *replenishes* ***2 Corinthians 9:8 (KJV) 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:***
  - Even when we're persecuted, it's a blessing to suffer for the cause of Christ ***Matthew 5:11-12 (KJV) "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven..."***
- When follow Jesus instead of a counterfeit, the blessings are both now and eternal