

The Rich Young Man

Meditation on Matthew 19:16-30/ Mark 10:17-31

- I would like to invite you to come on a journey with St. Mark
 - ↳ Close your eyes
- Imagine a very dusty road 2000 years ago. There is no pavement or street lights around, only an ordinary dirt road.
 - ↳ There are some plants on the sides, some shrubs and a few trees around.
 - ↳ Picture this place and look around.
 - ↳ It is a hot day and the sun is very strong. You walk under one of the trees and you sit for a while to cool off.
- After a while, you see that a group of men and some women are approaching the area of trees where you are resting. It is not a huge number of people, perhaps about 25 or so?
 - ↳ As your eyes scan through the crowd, you see that that Jesus is the one who is leading everyone else over to this place of shade to cool down and rest a while.
 - Look at Jesus. What does He look like?
 - Look at those who are following Him? Do they seem tired?
 - What are you thinking as they all come closer?
- When Jesus arrives to the area under the trees, He sits down on the ground and leans His back against one of the trees. All of people following Him also sit down.
 - ↳ You are pretty close to where they are all sitting.
 - ↳ Look at Jesus. As you look at Him, you see that He looks around at all His followers and, He sees you as well and gives you a little smile. He saw you! He is happy that you are there, just sitting with all of them. And you relax yourself in His presence.
- After a few minutes, you hear the noise of animals coming from your right side. You turn and you see that there is a man riding a camel who is coming over to that area also. He is riding a camel, and he also has a second camel tied by a rope that is loaded up with bags and carrying a great load of things.
 - ↳ Imagine the camels! Look at how big they are as they come near! Their legs are so long, skinny, and yet so powerful! The camel, and the young man riding it, and the second camel full of things it is carrying, all come and end up just a few feet away from you and Jesus.
 - ↳ Use your imagination and listen to the noises of the camels in your minds.
- Now, look up at the young man riding the camel. He's not an old man; He must only be in his teens or early twenties perhaps?
 - ↳ He is dressed with very fancy clothes... lots of colors, and expensive jewelry too. His shoes look brand new.
 - ↳ Look carefully at his clothes.
 - ↳ What are you thinking to yourself about this young man as you study him and look at him? He sure looks as if he must have a lot of money!
 - Even the second camel has very fancy bags that it is carrying.
- Then you hear the young man ask Jesus a question: "Good Teacher, what must I do to have eternal life?" -- His question echoes in your mind: *What must he do to live forever with God?*
 - ↳ Jesus is now looking up at him.
- Listening carefully, you hear Jesus respond: "You know the commandments: 'You shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not lie; honor your father and your mother.'"
 - ↳ The rich young man then says to Jesus: "I have already done all this since I was a boy."
 - Look at the rich young man again. Look at his face. What do you see in his face? Is he searching for something? What do you think might be going on in his heart?
 - Do you think that Jesus sees what is in this man's heart? Do you think that it matters to Jesus? Look at the way Jesus is looking at him.
 - Look at Jesus' face. Look closely. What do you think Jesus wants to tell the young man?

- Then, as you are thinking about all this, you hear Jesus' voice. He answers the man's question: "*What must I do to have eternal life?*", to live forever with God?
 - ↳ Jesus says to him: "Go and sell all that you have, give it to the poor, and you will have a treasure in Heaven. Then come and follow Me."
 - ↳ Go and sell everything ... and come and follow Me... stay with Me. Wow, Jesus is inviting him to stay with Him! **WHAT A GIFT! TO STAY WITH JESUS!**
 - What will the man do, you wonder?
- But then as you look up at the man, you notice that he seems disappointed, sad, frustrated, shocked & confused-- all at the same time.
 - ↳ He has so much that he just can't imagine selling everything. That would leave **NOTHING** left for him! No, it is too big of a sacrifice; it costs too much to follow Jesus.
 - And then, just like that, he turns his camels around and begins to leave back in the direction he came.
 - ↳ **HOW SAD!** Here Jesus has just offered him a chance to follow him and stay with him; a chance to become one of His closest twelve friends... and he has said *NO to Him*; he said **NO to God!**
- What do you feel inside your heart as you see this happening? Look over at Jesus. He looks sad and hurt that the young man would not listen and stay with him.
 - ↳ In your mind, imagine that you get up from your spot and walk over to Jesus. Sit down next to Him. What does your heart feel as you sit next to Jesus?
 - Now Jesus looks at you. Look at him and ask Him: "Lord, what must **IDO** to have eternal life?"
 - Lord, what do You want of me?
 - What does He tell you?
 - What does He do?
- *When you are ready boys & girls, open your eyes and look up at Jesus here in the Monstrance.*
- *Quietly, pick up your paper and silently, I want you to read the question and then answer it.*
 - ↳ *Use your words and talk to Jesus from your heart as you write.*
 - ↳ *This is your special Jesus time, your special time with Jesus. Nobody will read this or see it so write to Jesus from your heart.*

Lord, You are so good and kind to me. You are always willing to listen to me and to help me to be good. Lord, so many times I fall and mess up. Lord, what must I do to live with you forever? Please help me to...



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