

God's Calling Requirements

Part 49

What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

"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. 22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. 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. 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. 31 But many that are first shall be last; and the last first." (Mark 10:17-31 KJV)

The rich that came to Jesus asking him what he needs to do to have eternal life, and what the Lord requesting him to do is a lesson rich in meanings for us today:

1. No for religiosity: *"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?" (Mark 10:17 KJV)* The rich man when he came to Jesus, he came running and kneeled down at Jesus' feet, when you would see such scene you might conclude that the person is very dedicated to God. There are many people who are very good in showing commitment to religious practices but they have no commitment to God and to His Word. Salvation is not present in such practices. They need to be set free from this bondage of religiosity and set be free from all such. That rich man asked this question to Jesus and with a big doubt, *"What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"* He came with a big doubt in his heart about the status of his own personal salvation. Every one of us may ask God this question, *"What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"* God would reveal to us what is needed to be done and what are the things that we need to do to achieve that. Truly salvation is by grace through faith through Jesus' work on the cross by His blood that was shed on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, but we need to comply with God's will and plan. It is not by our own work so that no one shall boast, *"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." (Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV)* But after

being saved, we are called to do certain things for God, *"10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10 KJV)* These good works that God called us to do we need to be diligent to do them.

2. Know who is God: *"18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God." (Mark 10:18 KJV)* The rich who came to Jesus he called Him, *"Good Master."* He knew Him as good teacher but not God. So Jesus reinstated Him with this statement, *"There is none good but one, that is, God."* We need to know who is God in our lives, what He need from us and how we interact with Him.

3. Partial obedience cannot save you and you should show progress in your walk with 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." (Mark 10:19-20 KJV)* The rich man was familiar with the Ten Commandments of God and he was observing these commands since he was young. But there are other things he was not willing to do. There are commands you are obeying in the bible and for long period of time, but still there are other commands that you are not yet doing and God wants you to go forward and obey them now. Salvation is a journey and along this journey we need to continue to express in our lives obedience to God's Word and voice.

4. Be willing to receive the love of Jesus: *"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." (Mark 10:21 KJV)* Jesus discerned the sin of that rich man, that he was not willing to give all what he has to God. He was not willing to surrender his will and whatever he had and put them into the Lord's disposal and commands. The request of Jesus to that rich man was to go and to sell all his possession and give it to the poor. That was the love of Jesus to that man. Jesus said so to that man because He loved him as we read in verse 21, *"21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him."* Jesus when He sees sins in our lives, He works it out to show it to us, and that is how He expresses His true love toward us. Let us be willing to receive that love of Jesus in our lives. Let us not be upset if Christ or our brethren show us our sins and mistakes, for that is the true love of God to lead us to repentance and to heal us from our sins. Jesus explained to him that when he is willing to give up his treasure to the poor then his treasure will be translated into heavenly treasure. It was shocking to that rich man to be shaken in such a way by Jesus. Someone may say, this rich had come to the Lord, then why He need to face him with such a shocking way of approach that he need to give up all he had. But let Jesus start with him little by little and gradually will introduce to him this idea of giving up all what he had to the poor? This question it can answered this way: That rich man was familiar in keeping many of the commands of God and the time had come to him to obey the command of Jesus in order to move forward.

Therefore, in whatever spiritual status you are, then you found the Lord is shocking you with certain request in order to take you out from despondency and sin, to move you forward, to progress and go forward in His plan. God's plan of salvation will come true in the life of that rich man when he would comply with the instruction of Jesus, *"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.” (Mark 10:21 KJV) This can be explained as the followings:-

- A. ***Go thy way:*** Go along the way that God had prepared for you.
- B. ***Sell whatsoever thou hast:*** Be willing to transfer all what you have into another form. Be willing to transfer all what you received from God, from life, time, health, strength, profession, money, talents, and material possession into service and ministry that God had prepared for you to do.
- C. ***Give to the poor:*** Give this service to the poor people, the crippled, the sick, the troubled and those who are willing to humble down and go along the ways of God. And that is the way that ***thou shalt have treasure in heaven.***
- D. ***Come:*** Report to Jesus your repentance and your completion to your assignment.
- E. ***Take up the cross:*** To be willing to suffer and go on in the narrow road that Jesus is asking you to enter.
- F. ***Follow me:*** To continue to follow Jesus carrying the responsibilities that He is entrusted to you. Be willing to be yoked with him, moving in the same direction and speed with His steps in the ministry that He had allocated to you.

5. Don't be sad but be willing to comply with Christ request: “22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.” (Mark 10:22 KJV) Many now a day they are looking for what they called balanced teaching, or moderate teaching to avoid the whole will of God. They want to relax and enjoy the material blessings and they spend their lives in eating, sleeping, wearing, traveling, and enjoying the rest of the material things that God gave to them. Don't look for a balance teaching. Jesus teaching is not a balanced one. Jesus teaching is for radical changes in your life. Be glad and happy when Jesus is tossing you up and down with His commands; that will be the way that He is showing you His love.

6. Don't let God's blessing in your life hinder you from entering God's kingdom: “23 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!” (Mark 10:23 KJV) The blessings of God to that rich man became the hindrance for him to reach heaven. Who is fault? The man's fault, and not God. When the Word of God preached, the message proclaimed and the people will not respond, then it is the people's fault and neither God nor His church.

7. Don't be astonished with Jesus word, and don't make out of Jesus' blessing a hindrance for you from reaching heaven: “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!” (Mark 10:24 KJV) The rich man because he trusted in those riches that he received from God was not able to obey the instruction of Jesus. Our trust of what God gave us will become a hindrance for us to surrender our will and life and all what we have to Him. Therefore we need to heed more careful thoughts of how we need to respond to God when He is shocking us with His commands and instructions.

8. The main sin was trusting in the riches: “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.” (Mark 10:25 KJV) The sin of that man was not being rich, but the trust that he had in the riches that God gave to Him. The Camel would enter through the eye of a needle but those who trusted in material riches

will not be able to make it to heaven. Their trust in material riches will make their heart callused toward God and toward His Word.

9. Don't be astonished with the teaching of Jesus: “26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?” (Mark 10:26 KJV) Reaching to heaven is not a dilemma that is difficult to be solved. There are people who do not trust what they have but they had put their trust on God and set their heart to obey Him. ***“27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.” (Mark 10:27 KJV)*** Truly there are the people who are willing to obey God and willing to give up what the Lord is pointing out to them to give up in order to please Him.

10. Be discerning of what Jesus is speaking to you: “28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.” (Mark 10:28 KJV) Peter understood what the Lord was saying and meaning to that rich man and to everyone. He grasped that Jesus wanted them to leave all what they have for His sake.

11. Be willing to leave what God wants you to leave: “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,” (Mark 10:29 KJV) Be willing to give up and leave the very exact thing that God wants you to leave whether ***house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands,*** or some other thing.

12. Be willing to receive persecution: “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.” Christ here promised blessings to is disciples those who obey Him, and with these blessings He promised persecutions. The Lord will send His blessing to His people and bring it to them with persecutions. Therefore as we expect to be rewarded by God for the things that we gave up for His sake, we also need to be ready to bear with God the opposition that the power of darkness will try to inflict on us as we persevere in doing the work of God and the will of God.

My dear and beloved: “31 But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.” (Mark 10:31 KJV) Be ready to receive the consequences of your decision. The Lord has not in his vocabulary rich, educated, famous, influential, poor, ignorant, unknown, or weak people, but he has obedient or disobedient people. Therefore do not react in your heart when the Lord is shaking you to surrender to Him what He is asking from you. God in shaking you is giving you another chance to repent. Therefore take heed and use this new opportunity to repent, to draw near to God and to do the service that He asks you to do and the kind of life that He wants to you live.

My prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sin to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your love to me. I surrender my will to you and I am willing to give you and give up _____, the very thing that you asked me to give. Lord gives me perseverance to bear all the pressure and the persecution that the power of darkness is fighting against me with. I thank you and praise you, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

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