

What are you looking for? Happiness, excitement, love. What are you looking for? A place to belong, for purpose, to make a difference, What are you looking for, escape, to leave behind evil, healing? One way or another, we're all looking for something that makes us alive. We want to live, have a life. No matter what age.

The rich man asked, **What must I do to inherit eternal life?** You should know that answer well. Child-like faith is not the exception. It's the rule. We shouldn't be surprised that infants are capable of believing as Jesus says. For faith is not of the intellect; it is a gift, of the heart. No one is saved apart from faith in Christ. No one enters His Kingdom without a faith that risks all- in His death and resurrection.

What must I do? Don't be fooled to think you're good enough, or that God owes you something when you do good things. He is not impressed. You must be perfect. God accepts nothing less. He doesn't grade on a curve, you don't get credit for trying. Nothing less than complete perfection. God's law, commandments always condemns you then. His law- what you are to do - all your work earns you the reward of hell. The more you see the futility of man's way, the more you learn -to appreciate grace, the more you understand -what it means to be saved by grace alone. What it means that the righteousness of Christ covers you.

What must I do to inherit eternal life? You might as well ask, "What must I do to inherit the crown to England?' The answer is simple: by birth of the right parents or by violence, go to war for it. For no matter how good I am, how badly I want it, how sincere, how hard I work, no matter what, I can't inherit the crown. Inheritance is a birthright. You can make all the decisions you want about who you are but none of them will make you the King or Queen of England. Heaven is inherited the same way. It's yours by the birthright of Holy Baptism. Your bloodline now runs thru the cross & you're a rightful heir of heaven. It's also given you thru war, by violence. Violence of a cross. God in our Flesh surrendered to death, to empty death and crush the serpent, to make you a rightful heir.

That rich man, a model citizen; He reveres God, works hard to obey the commandments. Someone who worships regularly, a good man in the eyes of all. The man was probably far greater than you in the desire to keep the commandments, but He is delusional that he has kept the commandments good enough; any hurt kills your neighbor, any lust is adultery, and so on. Yet, there's **one thing He lacks**. A matter of the heart. The Lord can see through us all. See through you. He knows you too well

and you are exposed. It's easy to fall in love with money and the things money can get you; it's seductive, addictive. We think that wealth will satisfy us, comfort us in hardship, protect us from disasters of life. Turn from your illusions of self-sufficiency, selfishness, your greed, your trust of money. It's not sinful to have riches.

Stopping at the store one day, I parked next to this beautiful new corvette. On the way in walked by slowly, gazing in to see the details, the beauty, the luxury. And walking around the rear-end, looking in the back window, only visible by someone like me, snooping, admiring the beauty, looking down inside the back window, on the carpet was a phrase. "Don't let this car fool you. My treasure in heaven."

Even the poorest of us would look like a millionaire if someone from the 1st thru 19th century saw how you live. Wealth is a blessing from God who gives it, so rejoice for all you have.

Jesus didn't ask rich Zaccheaus, his rich friend Lazarus, wealthy Joseph of Arimathea, or the wealthy, Jewish senator Nicodemus, or some wealthy disciples to sell all they had and give it to the poor. Nor does Jesus ask you to sell all you have and give it to the poor.

Jesus was calling the man to repentance, calling you to repentance. So where are you in this? Is the treasure of your heart defined by your money to keep you secure, your status, by having things, do you treasure being safe and healthy more than what your Lord gives you here today?

Martin Luther said: "**Riches are the pettiest and least worthy gifts which God can give a man. How can you compare riches to your health or your family; how can you compare wealth to the gifts of wisdom and understanding; what can compare to the value of God's Word and Sacraments given to you.**" What good was Steve Jobs wealth when he had cancer and died? Jobs was given immeasurable wealth at Christ Lutheran Church in Palo Alta CA , but indications during his last years and days, he rejected the wealth, the life God desired to give him. The fortunes of the world are worthless treasures.

What must I do to inherit eternal life? Nothing but receive. Be emptied of yourself, be filled with Him. Only the poverty of Christ gives you this inheritance, in His death and resurrection. All that you ever truly needs, a life is found here, He is your life, your purpose, your healing. You belong to Him, the entire wealth of His kingdom is poured out, given to have you. Your treasure, inheritance awaits you in heaven...And, even given to you here in this place.