

“Only God is Good”

Mark 10:17-22

“Do good people get into heaven?”

Preview: Jesus corrects this very popular notion with His discussion with the rich young ruler.

I. Do Good people go to heaven? (It is a common belief that being good person gets you into heaven)

A. A man wanted to know what good thing He could do to inherit eternal life.

Mark 10:17–27 — ¹⁷ As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

B. This man presumed that people can achieve a sufficient level of goodness.

1. Although he believed He was good, He rightly discerned that complete goodness eluded his efforts up to this point.
 - a. Matthew’s version of this conversation gives us a different angle: **(Matt. 19:16)** “Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?”
 - b. ^{v20} The young man *said to Him, “All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?”
2. **Conclusion:** If we are honest with ourselves, we will know that there is sufficient imperfection in our deeds to question or doubt our access into Heaven.

II. Jesus corrects this man’s wrong assumption:

Mark 10: 18 “And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.”

A. Absolute truth: No one is Good, except God alone.

1. **Spiritual ramifications:** Goodness is not a means of salvation because no one is good.

2. **Then why try to be good?** Because God commands it because we are moral beings made in His image.

III. So how does one inherit eternal life apart from being good?

A. Jesus questions the rich man about God’s commandments.

Mark 10:19-20 - “You know the commandments, ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’ ” ²⁰ And he said to Him, “Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up.”

1. The man believed he kept all God’s commandments.

B. Jesus tells the man that there was something He lacked.

Mark 10:21 “Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, “One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

C. He needed to come follow Jesus as the Savior.

1. **Isaiah 45:22–23** — ²² “Turn to Me and be saved, ...”
2. **Proverbs 11:4** — “Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death.”
3. The young man’s impediment was the love of His riches.
v22 “But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.”

D. Application:

1. Each of us had impediment prior to coming to follow Christ.
2. God had to deal with us about these things so we could truly believe and follow Him.
3. Is there some impediment that keeps us from fully following Christ in this life? - **Hebrews 12:1–2**

E. Conclusion: Eternal life is inherited because of who you follow, not how much we are doing.

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