

Introduction

1. "...he went away sorrowful..." ([Mt. 19:22](#)).
 - a. This person was sorrowful, but why?

I. A Lot Going For Him

1. He was young ([Mt. 19:20](#)).
 - a. There is great vigor in youth ([1 Jn. 2:13-14](#)).
 - b. There is great opportunity to serve God in youth ([Ecc. 11:9-12:7](#)).
2. He was in a position of leadership ([Lk. 18:18](#)).
 - a. Perhaps he was even a member of the Jewish council known as the Sanhedrin (BDAG 140).
 - b. There were certainly some of the Sanhedrin who had an interest in speaking to Jesus ([Jn. 3:1-21](#)).
3. He came to Jesus ([Mt. 19:16](#)).
 - a. Jesus was the right person to come to as He is The Way to the Father ([Jn. 14:1-6](#); cf. [Jn. 6:44-45](#)).
4. He asked the right question ([Mt. 19:16](#)).
 - a. Evidently he believed he had an obligation to *do* something in order to obtain eternal life (cf. [Jm. 2:14-26](#)).
5. He had been obedient to the commandments thus far ([Mt. 19:17-20](#)).
 - a. True love is shown by obedience ([Jn. 14:15](#), [21](#); [1 Jn. 5:1-5](#)).

II. Too Much Holding Him Back

1. He did not want to give it all for Christ ([Mt. 19:21](#)).
 - a. perfect (*teleios* G5046 adjective) "properly brought to its end, finished; wanting nothing necessary to completeness...of mind and character, one who has reached the proper height of virtue and integrity: [Mt. 5:48](#); [19:21](#)" (Thayer 618).
 - b. This young man had to count the cost just as we must ([Lk. 14:26-33](#)).
 - c. Christ must have my all including my possessions.
2. His possessions possessed him ([Mt. 19:22](#)).
 - a. Riches can be a great hindrance into entering the kingdom of Heaven ([Mk. 10:23-25](#)).

- i. for them that trust (*ho* G3588 definite article *peitho* G3982 verb) “to believe in something or someone to the extent of placing reliance or trust in or on” (Louw-Nida 375).
- ii. Here is the issue! Our trust must be completely given to God and then our goods will follow our heart ([Pr. 3:5-10](#)).

III. Left All but Gained More

- 1. The apostles had left all (forsaken [Mt. 19:27](#)) and followed Jesus but gained so much more ([Mk. 10:28-30](#)).
- 2. It is the epitome of foolishness, the destroyer of happiness, and the height of selfishness to walk away from Christ.
 - a. Yet, the price was too high for this unhappy young man.

Conclusion

- 1. The rich, young ruler teaches us a valuable lesson on possessions.
 - a. We must be willing to give up whatever stands in our way of following Christ.
 - b. Too often it is material things and if that is the case then they need to be taken care of as Christ told this young man.
- 2. True happiness comes in giving and not hoarding.
 - a. Furthermore, true happiness comes in following Christ wherever His pathway goes!
 - b. We know ultimately it leads to Heaven which is the greatest treasure of all.