

# 1 When Doing Good is not Good Enough

Series: Wednesday Bible Study

January 26, 2011

Text: Matthew 19:16-22;

Mark 10:17-27

## 2 Thesis

- Our attitude regarding material possessions is a good litmus test of who we are on the inside
- God already knows... the test is so that we will know

## 3 Study Outline

- Don't assume that eternal life is matter of what you do... it's a matter of who you are
- Don't assume that goodness is a human quality...only God is good
- Don't assume that material things are always a help...they are mostly a hindrance

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- <sup>16</sup>And someone came to Him and said, “Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?” <sup>17</sup>And He said to him, “Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is *only* One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” (16-17)

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- <sup>17</sup>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?” <sup>18</sup>And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. (Mark 10:17-18)

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- <sup>18</sup>A ruler questioned Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>19</sup>And Jesus

said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. (Luke 18:18-19)

## 7 Observations

- 16...“What good thing shall I do...?
- **Good...(agathos)**
  - *Inwardly good*
  - *Good constitution*
  - *That which produces good effect*
  - *Has focus on inward character and thus carries the idea of morally or inherently virtuous*

## 8 A Reasonable Question

- **What morally virtuous thing can I do to merit eternal life?**

## 9 Observations

- 16...“What good thing shall I do...?
- **Do...(poieo)**
  - *To make, produce or accomplish*
  - *To perform or carry out for a definite result*

## 10 Observations

- **No serious lack of sincerity**
- **No serious lack of perception... he knew something was missing**
- **A serious lack of relationship**

## 11 Observations

- Question: What “outward” task can I perform or what result can I produce that would make me “inwardly” good?

## 12 Key Point

- Because Jesus knows that the young man is sincere, he does not address his question but rather His problem.

## 13 Observations

- 17...Jesus says, why are you asking Me about what is good?
- Asking...(eroto) to ask someone on a more intimate basis...asking for more than information

## 14 The young man...

- ...not only knew what he was asking, but more, he knew who he was asking

## 15 Jesus Answers

- “There is nothing you can do to be good, because only One is good.

## 16 Jesus Clarifies

- If I am not God, then I am not good, because only God is good.
- See Mark 10:17ff; Luke 18:18-30

17  **Answer to the Original Question**

- If you want life, keep the *commandments* (5-9)
  - *Murder*
  - *Adultery*
  - *Stealing*
  - *Lying*
  - *Honor father and mother*
- Love your neighbor

18  **Observations**

- Jesus quoted commandments five through nine...  
He omitted one
- The young man perceived he had kept the commandments, but he was still lacking

19  **Coveting**

- Jesus left out the tenth commandment on coveting... the man's problem was coveting

20  **Loving**

- Jesus gives the man the solution...
  - Love God with all your heart
  - Love others with all your possessions

21  **Loving**

- The young man did not love God
- The young man could not love others

22  **Lessons**

- Kingdom character requires a change of thinking... being before doing

23  **Applications**

- Kingdom character requires a change of perspective... only God is good.

24  **Applications**

- Kingdom character requires a change of values... loving is better than having