

“Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God’ ” (MARK 10:27, NIV).

Bible Study 48

Share the Truth—No Matter What

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Read Mark 10:17-27 and Matthew 19:16-26.

Do you think there is anything wrong with having lots of “things”? Why? _____

In the story, what do you think was the rich young man’s problem? _____

Does Jesus’ response surprise you at all? Why or why not? _____

This is one of the most famous encounters in the Gospels between Jesus and another person. Matthew, Mark and Luke all record the story in their accounts of Jesus’ life and ministry. In this study we will focus on how Jesus handled this encounter with the rich young man. Jesus, as always, is the model for us to follow today.

Notice in this story that the man approached Jesus and asked, “*Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life*” (Mark 10:17, NIV)? Jesus responded to the man. He “saw through” the man’s words and questions to his thoughts and misunderstanding of life and God and Scripture.

How did Jesus respond to the word “good”? _____

How did He respond to the word “do”? _____

Notice that Jesus did not respond with some “canned” or prepared gospel presentation. Can you find any two places in the Bible where Jesus gave the same message to lost people? _____

Briefly, summarize His response to these people who needed salvation:

John 3:2-3 _____

Luke 5:8-10 _____

Luke 23:42-43 _____

John 18:33-37 _____

When Jesus responded to the rich young man, why didn’t He use words like “faith,” “believe” and “trust”? _____

The one common message that Jesus conveyed is that salvation is all about “relationship” to Him. His challenge and invitation, in whatever form, is always ultimately to “follow Him.”

The man responded by leaving—a very sad man. No life-changing event occurred in spite of his encounter with Jesus.

Sometimes we want someone to believe in Jesus so badly that we may be tempted to change the message to make it more appealing. Jesus never compromised the truth of the gospel.

When the young man began to walk away, why didn't Jesus pursue him and possibly change the demand that He gave the young man? _____

Does it surprise you that this young man did not get saved? Why or why not? _____

In this story Jesus did something that we must often do. Jesus talked with someone who didn't completely receive His message. However, the man's response did not cause Jesus to change the message. Sometimes we want someone to believe in Jesus so badly that we may be tempted to change the message to make it more appealing. Jesus never compromised the truth of the gospel.

There are also times in our lives when we know that we need to say something or confront someone, but we are afraid to do so because we are concerned about the potential response. The truth is the truth, and we need to live and speak it regardless of what the response of others may be.

Can you think of a time that you compromised the truth because you were worried about what your friends might think of you? Describe the situation. _____

How could you have handled the situation more effectively? _____

What do you normally do when someone doesn't accept the message of Jesus' love and forgiveness? _____

What should you do? _____

It is always sad when someone does not respond positively to the gospel message. However, our responsibility is to share the truth faithfully. It is up to each person how he or she responds to the truth. Some will receive the truth; some will reject it. You and I have to live and share the truth for others to have the opportunity to receive or reject it.

Do you know someone who is wealthy by the world's standards but is poor in terms of a lack of relationship with Jesus Christ? Who? _____

How can you share the truth with this person? _____

How will you respond if he or she rejects the message? _____

Ask God to give you boldness to speak the truth even when you are concerned about a potential negative response. Remember that the results are up to God. Be faithful to share the truth today.