

ALL OR NOTHING

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Luke 18:18-23 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.

The rich young ruler in this story had everything that money could buy. He wasn't just rich, the Bible says that he was very rich. He was also young. He had his whole life ahead of him. He had the world by the tail. He was able to call his own shots. Yet something was missing in his life. The emptiness in his soul was evidenced by the question he asked Jesus, "What am I missing? What else do I need to do?"

What was he missing? Why was he miserable? The answer is easy. He was following all the rules but he wasn't following Jesus. I think many people are still doing the same thing today.

The young man was religious. He was keeping the commandments. He wasn't doing anything wrong but we can do nothing wrong and still not be doing right.

We tend to fixate on sins of commission; don't do this and don't do that and then you'll be ok. That's holiness by subtraction and that usually ends up being more hypocrisy than true holiness.

God doesn't just want us to do nothing wrong. He wants us to do something right. He doesn't want us just following the rules, He wants us following Him.

The story of the Rich Young Ruler is one of the saddest stories in the Bible because this young man had so much potential. His resources and energy could have been given and used to do a great work in the Kingdom of God. Instead, he refused to give. He wanted to keep what God had blessed him with for himself. He thought that giving his money away would make him sad, but the fact that he refused to do what Jesus told him to do, made him miserable.

The Bible says that he went away very sorrowful.

How are you responding to what God is saying to you? Is He really Lord of your life? With God, it is all or nothing. We can't serve two masters. Each of us has to choose who we will serve.