

He Went Away Sorrowful

Intro: As a basis for our study please turn to Mat. 19:16-22 ¹⁶ And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? ¹⁷ And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is* none good but one, *that is*, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. ¹⁸ He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, ¹⁹ Honour thy father and *thy* mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ²⁰ The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? ²¹ Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go *and* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *and* follow me. ²² But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.” Sorrowful is the way Matthew describes the rich young man who went away from Jesus. Coming to Jesus brings joy (Acts 8:35-39 ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. ³⁶ And as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷ And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.” Acts 16:31-34 ³¹ And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. ³² And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed *their* stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. ³⁴ And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.”). Going away sorrowful he also went away in other states, as we shall see.

I. S—SINFUL

A. He had an idol in his heart.

1. Col. 3:5 ⁵ Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:”
2. Exo. 20:3 ³ Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

B. What is sin?

1. Transgression of the law. 1 John 3:4 ⁴ Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”
2. Omission of duty. Jam. 4:17 ¹⁷ Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.”

C. Christ is the only one who can take sin away.

1. Mat. 1:21 ²¹ And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”
2. Acts 4:12 ¹² Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
3. He left Christ therefore, left sinful.

II. O—OPINIONATED

A. He had his own opinion.

1. His opinion was different from the Lord’s.
2. This is true of many.

B. The Christian life is one of faith.

1. Rom. 1:16-17 ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
2. 2 Cor. 5:7 ⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)”

3. Gal. 2:20 ²⁰ "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."
4. Faith is based on God's word. Rom. 10:17 ¹⁷ "So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

III. R—RASH

A. If he had weighed the matter, he would not have been so reckless and hasty.

1. He showed a disregard for the consequences.
2. A man's soul is too precious for him to be so rash.
3. Mark 8:36-37 ³⁶ "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? ³⁷ Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

B. In going away from Jesus one departs:

1. From Savior.
 - a. Mat. 1:21 ²¹ "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."
 - b. Acts 13:23 ²³ "Of this man's seed hath God according to *his* promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:"
2. From Him who gives life.
 - a. John 1:4; 5:40 ⁴⁴ "In him was life; and the life was the light of men.... ^{5:40} And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."
 - b. 1 John 5:11-12 ¹¹ "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."
3. From Light and thus walks in darkness.
 - a. John 1:4-5, 8 ⁴⁴ "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.... ⁸ He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light."
 - b. John 8:12 ¹² "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."
4. From Him whose word will judge us.
 - a. John 12:48-50 ⁴⁸ "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. ⁴⁹ For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. ⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak."
 - b. Acts 3:22-23 ²² "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. ²³ And it shall come to pass, *that* every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people."

C. He should have been like the man seeking goodly pearls; Mat. 13:45-46 ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: ⁴⁶ Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."

IV. R—REBELLIOUS

- A. **Rebellion in Kings Saul's life: 1 Sam. 15:23** ²³ "For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king."
- B. **The rebellious spirit that prompts a man to reject the authority of God in one command is equivalent to rejecting the Lord's authority in all commands. Jam. 2:10** ¹⁰ "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all."

C. Must be obedient.

1. Jer. 10:23 ^{“23} O Lord, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”
2. Mat. 6:10 ^{“10} Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.”
3. Heb. 5:8-9 ^{“8} Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”

V. O—OPULENT**A. Opulent is having a large estate or wealthy.****B. Happiness comes from within.**

1. Not from wealth.
2. Luke 12:15 ^{“15} And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”
3. cf. Howard Hughs
4. Wealth is only a means to an end.
 - a. It should be the servant not the master.
 - b. Joseph of Arimathaea used it in such a way. Mat. 27:57-60 ^{“57} When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus’ disciple: ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. ⁵⁹ And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰ And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.”

- C. 1 Tim. 6:7-10 ^{“7} For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. ⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

VI. W—WILLING**A. He turned away of his own accord.****B. Man is a creature of his own volition and choice.**

1. Jos. 24:15 ^{“15} And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”
2. Mat. 11:28-30 ^{“28} Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.”
3. Mat. 23:37 ^{“37} O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not!”
4. Acts 2:40 ^{“40} And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.”
5. Acts 13:46 ^{“46} Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.”
6. If we choose good, then we will receive the blessings of God; if we choose evil, then God will punish us.

VII. F—FRUSTRATED

A. He was caught between two decisions, and was not happy with either.

B. Wholeheartedness is an antidote for frustration.

1. No man can serve two masters.
 - a. Mat. 6:24 ²⁴ “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”
 - b. Luke 16:13 ¹³ “No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”
2. We need singularity of purpose.
 - a. Mat. 6:22 ²² “The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.”
 - b. Phi. 3:13 ¹³ “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,”
3. That singularity of purpose is to serve God.
 - a. Ecc. 12:13 ¹³ “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.”
 - b. Mat. 6:33 ³³ “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
 - c. Phi. 3:13-14 ¹³ “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

VIII. U—UNREPENTANT

A. Repentance is:

1. A change of mind that leads to a change in action.
2. It is the decision to quit sinning and to turn and live for God.

B. Need for repentance.

1. Luke 13:3, 5 ^{3,5} “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”
2. Acts 2:38 ³⁸ “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
3. Acts 17:30-31 ³⁰ “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: ³¹ Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”

C. He brought forth no fruits of repentance.

1. Mat. 3:8 ⁸ “Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.”
2. Luke 3:8-9 ⁸ “Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. ⁹ And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”
3. Acts 26:20 ²⁰ “But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.”

IX. L—LOST

A. He rejected the only way of life and salvation.

1. John 14:6 ⁶ “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

2. Acts 4:12 ^{“12} Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
3. Acts 10:43 ^{“43} To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.”

B. The lost state brings sorrow; he has:

1. no God
2. no Christ
3. no Savior
4. no hope
5. no heaven
6. Eph. 2:12 ^{“12} That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:”

C. Salvation brings joy.

Conclusion: Are you going to be sorrowful or enjoy the blessings of salvation by coming to Christ?