

The Good Life¹**31**

Share little bit about myself so: can get to know me [as I get to know all of you]

Born/raise Wash DC thru college years ...
Had very typical life.. like many of you

Went to elementary, junior high, senior high schools:

- no school bus...walk instead
- public transportation

My father ran laundry business... his 3 sons help him out

**Mk 10:17-**

When old enough... apply/hire to work with the city during summer

Eventually went to George Washington University in the city.

Here's something different: Not have to do Chinese school because we are all too busy with the laundry business.

Always had enough eat... even some good stuff like live chicken.

I really thought: I live the good life

[pause] I think we all like to live the good life, don't we?

No matter what race.. culture.. social class.. country.. we all like to live the good life

This evening: want talk about good life from perspective of 1 man [the rich, young ruler]

PRAY**1st The good life is good**

1 day..as Jesus= teaching.. the rich young ruler ran up to him & fell on his knees before him.

"Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Context of this verse & from Matthew 19 & Luke 18 tells us:

He is young.. He is rich... & He is a ruler

Put it all together: For rich young ruler, the good life was good

Probably he is member of official council/court [the mayor, a state representative or court judge?]

1st For rich young ruler, the good life was good because he had great wealth according to Mark 10:22

Don't have any numbers on his wealth him but if look at another young rich ruler...

¹ Pastor David Moy from New Jersey together with wife Helen as his interpreter preached the evangelistic sermon at the "Back to Church" night of Gilead Bible Church on September 18, 2010.

King Solomon= also young rich ruler & he had great wealth [also the wisest man]

2 Chronicle 9:13 The weight of the gold:

- Solomon received yearly=666 talents
- 666 talent of gold = 25 ton of gold
- Today's money: 1 ounce= about \$1200

So we can really say: Solomon had great wealth

For these 2 rich young rulers, good life was good because they had great wealth according to Mk 10:22

2nd For The rich young ruler, the good life is good because he was a good boy
according to Mark 10:19-20

Jesus said: ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'

Rich young ruler: Teacher: all these I have kept since I was a boy

What a guy... probably if ask police pull up and check his record: Nothing..

Not even got ticket for speeding... Not even a parking ticket!

For rich young ruler:

The good life was good because he had great wealth & he = a good boy

Maybe many of us can also declare: The good life is good also

I= not really rich like...

1	Carlos Slim Helú and family	\$53.5 billion	70	 Mexico	 Mexico	Telmex, Telcel, América Móvil
2	William Henry Gates III	\$53.0 billion	54	 US	 US	Microsoft
3	Warren Buffett	\$47.0 billion	79	 US	 US	Berkshire Hathaway

I= not really rich ... but I am rich enough

& also I= sure most can declare: I am good boy or I am good girl

I obey 10 commandments... I= moral person... I commit no crime... maybe few park/traffic tickets...

You see **1st The good life is good**

2nd [but] The good life is not good enough for eternal life

Now.. whole reason rich young ruler came to Jesus in 1st place = get eternal life

He= aware of life beyond life on earth .. aware of his mortality so:

Mark 10:17 [he] ran up to him & fell on his knees before him.
"Good teacher...what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

You see... all his life: rich young ruler work to get where he is in life:

- his great wealth
- he is being good boy

So when he approaches Jesus:

Good teacher...what can I do to inherit eternal life?

Another words: he work to get great wealth... he work to be good boy

Now... Good teacher...what work can I do to inherit eternal life?

I think Jesus saw earnestness of rich young ruler... [I= let try work on it]

Mark 10:21 One thing you lack...Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor,
and you will have treasure in heaven. Then

come, follow me

Mark 10:22 say: At this the man's face fell. He went away sad,

because he had great wealth.

Further Jesus said:

Mark 10:23 How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!

Mark 10:24 Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!

Mark 10:25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter
the kingdom of God.

You see good life of rich young ruler is not good enough for eternal life for 2 reasons:

1st reason: No one can work enough to earn eternal life

The rich young ruler work hard in his life to have the good in his good life

[not good enough]

How about us?

I am aware of life beyond life on earth... I am aware of my mortality

Maybe we think same thing:

What can I work on to inherit eternal life?

I= not really rich ... but I am rich enough [that's OK]

I am good boy or I am good girl

I obey 10 commandments... I= moral person.. I commit no crime..
Maybe few park/traffic tickets!

What can work on to inherit eternal life?

[but] No one can work enough to earn eternal life

**2nd reason: Treasures on earth compete with eternal life
[our treasure in heaven]**

That= why Jesus ask rich young ruler: Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor

Another words: get rid of your treasures on earth because
it= competing with eternal life [your treasure in heaven]

That= really 1st 2 commandments: of 10 commandments

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers"

Treasures on earth compete with eternal life
[our treasure is in heaven]

How about us?

What are our treasures on earth that competing with our treasure in heaven [the eternal life]?

Sometime... it is our wealth: monies, house, car, anything

Sometime... it is our job: title, position, respect

Sometime... it is our education: degrees, knowledge

Sometime... it is people in our life: wife, children, and friends

Sometime... it is anything...anyone.

They= treasures on earth competing with eternal life [our treasure in heaven]

Now when rich young ruler:

Mark 10:17 Good teacher..what must I do to inherit eternal life?

Jesus response Mk 10:18:

¹⁸"Why do you call me good? No one is good—except God alone."

Jesus =telling: Not only he [Jesus] = Good teacher , but he= God
Further... No one is good—except God [Jesus] alone.

Another words.. The good life is not good enough for eternal life

The rich young ruler= not good enough
no matter how much good he as done

Bible calls being not good enough = sin
and calls us = sinners

Because of our sins & because we are sinners
The good life is not good enough for eternal life

So **1st The good life is good**

2nd [but] The good life is not good enough for eternal life

3rd [only] Jesus' life is enough for eternal life

Now Mark 10:26 The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"

The disciples ask good question:

Who then can be saved if someone like the rich young rule can't be saved?

Mark 10:27 Jesus looked at them:

"With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

Jesus= say:

It= impossible for man to work to save himself no matter how good the work

Salvation is only possible with God... **it is all God's work**

Another part of Bible puts it this way:

John. 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

When it seem impossible for man to save himself...
 For man to have eternal life

[only] Jesus' life is enough for eternal life

1st God love.. who? The world

When no one in world could save himself because of sin..
 God loved the world

How many people can you love: 1, 2, 25, 100

Jesus loves the entire world: over **6.8 billion**

2nd God love.. by do what? He gave his 1 & only Son: JC

I think it= always difficult to give a child:

E.g. Give a son/daughter to serve in Afghanistan [= tough to do]

But that's what God did:

You see when we celebrate Xmas..

..we do because on Xmas day we celebrate God's love
in giving up his 1 & only son

3rd What should we do with God's gift: Believe in him

Believe in Jesus Christ who is totally sinless...

Because we are sinners who can't save ourselves

4th Result: We shall not perish but have eternal life

[only] Jesus' life is enough for eternal life

Today you can make the choice for eternal life

Today you can choose what the rich young ruler did not choose

1st The good life is good

2nd [but] The good life is not good enough for eternal life

3rd [only] Jesus' life is enough for eternal life

Will you make the most important decision in your life?

Now Markk 10:28 1 of disciples: Peter said to Jesus

We have left everything to follow you!

Jesus share the blessing Mark 10:29-31

"I tell you the truth...no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel...

...Will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life

But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Will you make the choice, not just good life, but a bless life thru Jesus Christ

Tonight can be beginning not a just good life, but a bless life thru Jesus Christ

I would like to make it really simple - To make a decision for a eternal life thru Jesus Christ:

- **A=Acknowledge** that Jesus Christ is God's 1 & only son
- **B=Believe** that Jesus Christ lived, died, rose again from dead for your sins
- **C=Confess** that I am a sinner who can only be saved thru JC

When you make this decision tonight?