

Good morning everyone, sorry about that. Good morning to all the folks here in the Baker Center as well as over in the sanctuary. My name is Pastor John Shalal. I'm the middle school and college age pastor here at Kingstree church. I want things I get all the time. That is a weird grouping for someone. Yes it is weird but it is awesome as well. So I enjoy having this position here at Kingstree. So we are continue on our year long series entitled Life in his name. We're digging deep in helping us to understand what it looks like to live the life that God desires for us once for us the abundant life that he promises us what it looks like to live life in the name of Jesus. Pastor Jody has been walking through the book of John which of course my name is John's My favorite book. But we're going to take a little detour today as we go into the Book of Mark. And so he would turn in your Bibles too or your smartphone. Mark 10 verses 17 through 22 will be our text this morning as well as we'll look at some other texts right around it as well. And we're going to take a look at the story of the rich young ruler. So I invite you as you pull up this passage as well as on your smartphone to follow along with me while I read this as Jesus started on his way. A man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. Good teacher he asked what must I do to inherit eternal life.
[00:01:46][91.3]

[00:01:47] Why do you call me good. Jesus answered No one is good except God alone. You 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 teacher. He declared. All these I have kept since I was a boy. Jesus looked at him and loved him. One thing you lack he said Go sell everything you have and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come follow me. At this the man's face fell. He went away sad because he had great wealth. If Jesus was looking to add to his team which we know that he was and he still is today this man has past it seems like he would be one of the best candidates that Jesus encounters in all of the gospels. That from the outside this guy looks like the ideal follower of Jesus. He seems to be the person who would be the top of Jesus's list to recruit as one of his disciples. When we look at all the folks that Jesus encounters into in the Gospels and a lot of folks they have a lot of baggage. This guy has none of the baggage that keeps who we know is a cheat lying cheat the hindrances of even the woman at the well who was looking for and looking for love in all the wrong places. There was none of that in this person and this man's life would seem to check off everything on the list to be on Jesus's team. [00:03:17][89.4]

[00:03:18] We know from this passage that this man had great wealth and those with a Jewish background. That day placed a great emphasis on the privileged position of those that were rich to them to be wealthy was a sure fire evidence of having the blessing from God. So this guy must be blessed by God due to his wealth. So check there on the list. The same story that we just ran is also found in both Matthew and Luke's gospels. We know from loose gospel that this man was a ruler that some scholars believe that he was maybe a member of the official council or court while others believe that maybe he was the leader of the local synagogue in that town. Either way this man was a leader as a leader in the community. Check in Matthew's version of the story we find out that he's a young man that this guy was young and Arya had become a significant leader in his community that he is. He has made it so far already in his young life and it could be someone that Jesus could mold and helped bring out even more of his potential to become a significant leader in Jesus's ministry. And he had his whole life in front of him that continued become the person that God wanted him to be. Check. And to top it off what we saw in the story of Jesus looks like 5 or 6 of the Ten Commandments and the man shares that he hasn't broken any of them. He seems to be the cream of the crop in following the law which means that he must be very religious. Check check and check on this guy.
[00:04:53][94.8]

[00:04:55] If I were Jesus forming a team of disciples I would choose this guy as my top disciple. Upon meeting this rich young man this rich young ruler and I him to a team I'd have to have some conversations with my disciples around the pool Peter on over and go Peter. Peter remember that time. That's I told you that you would be the rock on whom I would build this church. Well you know you seem a little bit too bold a little bit to be a rash decisions. So actually this guy right here he's the rock I'm sorry. John come on over have something to tell you. John you know you think you're my beloved but remember you wanted to call in God's wrath and destroy a whole town that isn't very lovely was it this this guy this young man. He's he's now my beloved and The Judas Judas Judas. I've been meaning to talk to you for a while now. I have this feeling I have this this inkling that you may not really have my best best interests in mind. In order for this man to join our team I'm going to have to make some room. You're cut you're fired get out here. Sorry about that. Well I'm not actually really. But again if I was Jesus I would if I was create a team of followers of disciples this rich young ruler will be the top of my list. But as you all may know thankfully I'm not Jesus and that is not how this story ends. [00:06:24][89.5]

[00:06:26] But instead this man this young man is the only person in all the Gospels who went away sad from the person of Jesus. So let's take a look a more thorough look at the story to see where things take a turn for this man. So let's look at Verse 17 so says Jesus start on his way a man ran up to him it fell on his knees before him. Good teacher. He asked what must I do to inherit eternal life. There are several things that we must take special note of here. First Mark tells us that this rich young ruler. He came running up to Jesus again this demonstrates this eagerness of a young man not to miss the opportunity to meet with Jesus now that indicates the importance the gravity of the man's situation for you apparently was desperate desperate to have an answer to his question. Second Mark tells us that the young man he knelt. He knelt before Jesus. This was the open sign of respect respect for Jesus. And the third the reason for this young man's earth says is quickly apparent when we see the question that he had for Jesus. He asked the very important question must I do to inherit eternal life. The young man was apparently worried about his ultimate salvation and sought out assurance from Jesus from that. And all of this is even all the more astonishing that this young man especially someone of his stature and his power would do something like this respected Jewish man at this time. They did that run. They did not feel it was beneath them to do so. But yet he adopts such an undignified stance. By Ryōma Jesus had fallen on his knees before him. *[00:08:14][108.2]*

[00:08:15] In my opinion it shows that this young man was sincere in his quest for an answer and in his respect for Jesus you know just from this one verse it makes me ask the question of myself or even a question that all of us maybe should ask ourselves. Do I have the same posture this posture of eagerness respect sincerity even occasionally undignified one that this young man shows when I when I come before Jesus. That's a tough question and one I may not we want to answer it regards this young man from the outside. Everything seems to look good on initial interaction of Jesus but yet Jesus sees something that we do not and yet he confronts it head on. In this next verse says Verse 18 why do you call me good. Jesus answered No one is good except God alone. As usual Jesus in this verse he does his normal thing normal Jesus thing by answering a question with another question. And this interaction has always been one that has intrigued me over the years. I've always been like Jesus what is the point of even bring this up right now. What are you trying to say or are you just doing this to annoy the guy. What is going on here. You know I've actually learned from my preparation in this message that the word good that simple word good was not part of a Jewish person's vocabulary back then less. It was referring to God. You didn't call anyone or anything good because that was reserved for God and God alone. So only God can be called good. *[00:10:04][108.8]*

[00:10:05] So by calling Jesus good it makes it seem like this young man is calling Jesus God that through what he has heard about Jesus prior to this moment makes him think that there's obviously something very special or something good about Jesus. But still why is Jesus asking this question. The young man is right about Jesus. I believe Jesus is really asking him Do you really know do you really know what you're saying. Right now Jesus has challenged him to think about what he is really saying in this moment. Are you calling me God. Are you saying that a mere man a mere human being can be good. Do you really know what you're saying here. It makes me think to my own life. I wonder how many times I have gone to God in prayer or through worship like we just did earlier even just talking about God with others I may have used all the right words that. But my understanding is even worse maybe even my heart just wasn't there. I said the right things the right words. But was it with the right hearts to the right understanding the right motives. Oh Jesus. Here he is trying to help him help this young man get a clearer picture of who Jesus is and Jesus does so in order to help this young man get a clearer picture of who this young man who himself is by comparison. And Jesus starts digging further into that in this next verse and Verse 19 says you know the commandments do not murder do not to commit adultery do not steal do not give false testimony do not defraud honor your father and mother Jesus. *[00:11:45][99.5]*

[00:11:46] Right here in this verse starts with something that is very familiar to this very religious young man. He starts with the Jewish law and more specifically the foundation of that law the Ten Commandments. It was a firm Jewish belief that based on the Old Testament teaching that the man who kept the law would live would have eternal life says in Deuteronomy 30 verse 16. I command you today to love the Lord your God to walk in his ways and to keep his commands decrees and laws that you will live in and increase in the LORD your God will bless you in the land you were entering to possess said Jesus he starts with what this religious young man knew best. Following the law is also interesting to note that Jesus brings up only a portion of the Ten Commandments and not not all is lost. All the commandments from the second half of the list the ones that will be fun under the Love Your Neighbor section of Jesus's response to what the greatest commandment was Jesus asked specifically about the commandments that we were consider more of the outward the more of doing commandments and commandments.

You broke them you broke them people wouldn't know about it. Especially for someone who has climbed up the religious ranks as this young man has you know as usual Jesus has a purpose for bringing up just these Commandments up first. He is trying to help this man get a clear picture of who he is. The young man himself actually is believe that the person is starting to help him realize that Jesus is starting to help him realize that he is focused he is focused on the wrong thing. [00:13:24][98.7]

[00:13:26] Jesus question about commandments This is how the young man responds. He says teacher he declared all these I have kept since I was a boy. You may have noticed this this little response right here that the young man dropped the word. Good he's learning he's a little smart here. It's like I know I tried that once with Jesus. I'm not going to do that again. But the young man he answers that he has kept all these laws that he answers competently and there are some scholars that would say that this man is lying in a war to look like he's he's perfect or blameless from Jesus. No but you know I really believe that this man is being sincere that he was brought up of a background of doing good things following the law about being righteous that there is a reason why he is where he is in life especially as a high ranking person a ruler in the synagogue. He truly lived these laws out because of him keeping the law was the most important thing to do in life. Because of this I believe I believe that his response was sincere. Let's see how Jesus responds. This young man's answer to this question he says Jesus looked at him and loved him. One thing you lack you said Go sell everything you have and give to the poor and you will have treasure and haven't come. Follow me so Jesus he now turns the corner. The court does again his Jesus thing he pinpoints exactly who this man is. Why does he do this. [00:14:59][93.5]

[00:15:01] Because he loves him Mark tells us that Jesus he directly directed his gaze toward directly at the young man and that he loved him. That some scholars believe that in order for the disciples to know that Jesus felt this way that he felt this way about this young man that to say this and the story that actually Jesus may have reached out and put his hand on his shoulder. Now it may not be true but I think it helps us understand Jesus's love for him as well as Jesus's love for us. When we get a picture of this man possibly even steel still reeling from the initial interaction of Jesus with Jesus hand reaching out touching them on the shoulder and just staring right into his eyes with just a loving loving gaze. You know I think it's a wonderful picture remind us that the love that Jesus has for us I think many of us maybe possibly needed needed that reminder even this morning as because Jesus loved this man that he tells him the truth. Jesus goes and puts his finger right where it needs to go. He says. He says the one thing you lack the one thing you lack which isn't that sound painful. The one thing you lack I can just picture as you say in these four words to the young man to his eyes just get wider with anticipation and even possibly a surprise of what Jesus was going to say to him. And then Jesus he calls him to sell everything he owns give to the poor income. Follow him. Earlier on with this young man was asked about Daltry. He replied back Nope I haven't done that. When this young man was asked about the fraud. [00:16:50][109.1]

[00:16:50] Nope I've never done that. And this goes down the list and the man says nope I've kept all these things and Jesus says let's talk about the two commandments You haven't kept about the love the Lord your God and have no other gods before me that you have a love you have a love that is before me is your wealth is your riches is your possessions. That is your true God. Remove it from your life and put me first. You know Jesus he desires from this young man he desires from us a complete allegiance that he desires for us that he is first in our lives. He does that because he loves us and wants to give us the abundant life that he has in store for us. Just a few paragraphs down from this passage Jesus he tells the disciples what he has in store for those that give up everything for him. He says I tell you the truth Jesus replied No one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or feels for for me and the Gospel fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age home as brothers sisters mothers children and fields and with them persecutions and in the age the calm eternal life Jesus he promises to those that give everything over to him and put him first in abundance and amazing life. The promise is for a full life in the here and now not not an easy one because he mentions about persecutions in there but an amazing abundant life but also promises eternal life in the future. [00:18:26][95.4]

[00:18:27] He wants us to experience life both here and now as well as in the future. In his name for the rich young ruler Jesus was calling him to recognize and repent of his sin and demonstrated by getting rid of his idol his riches in order to put God first. Sadly however the young man loved his money more than God. As we see here in this the next verse says that the man's feet at the man's face fell. He went away sad because he had great wealth. The man walks away sad to obey Jesus was too great a risk to him for him to take the security of his wealth the life he was currently living kept him from taking this step. It helps us to realize that obedience to God brings joy. Disobedience

brings sadness sorrow. I'll be honest. I hope that this wasn't really the end of the story for this young man. Maybe sometime later the spirit convicted him and he gave up his riches and went and followed Jesus that maybe he was at the cross when Jesus died. Maybe he was one of the 500 plus that saw Jesus when he was resurrected. Maybe became a leader a great leader within the early church. Sadly you know we don't know if this is true. We just know that he went away sad he left sad because his wealth was more important to him and being obedient to God I believe is because he truly didn't understand who Jesus was and who he was as well. He missed the message he missed what Jesus was trying to teach him. [00:20:08][100.7]

[00:20:10] As I think about this young man and the interaction of Jesus it really reminds me of someone else that we see later on in Scripture that this man would consider himself a very religious man. Consumes self affair the affairs of a great background and education. He was one of the top religious men in his day. He lived out all the commandments all the law to a T. He did everything that he thought he was supposed to do in order to please God. He did everything right he felt and he actually he says that when he looked back at this life this religious unbeliever in Jesus someone who sought out like legalistic righteousness that he was false that he did everything right. Just like how the young man answered Jesus but the man that we know saw where Paul goes on to say this and flipping is. But wherever. But whatever it was to my prophet. Now consider a loss for the sake of Christ. What is more I consider everything a lost compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord for whose sake I have lost all things I can send them rubbish that I may gain. Christ so what's the difference between the young man and Paul Paul when he encountered Jesus he saw Jesus for who he was to he truly was he saw himself for who he truly was. The same lesson that Jesus was trying to teach the young man. He missed. Paul caught so brings us to two very important questions for us today. Who is Jesus and who I my you know Jesus he answers the first question as he talks with his disciples right after the young man leaves he says in verse 23. [00:21:53][103.3]

[00:21:54] Move on to 27 as well. Jesus look around said his disciples. How hard is it for the rich to enter the kingdom of God. The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again children how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle and for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. Disciples were even more amazed and said to each other. Who then can be saved. Jesus looked at them and said With man this is impossible but not with God all things are possible of God. So who is Jesus. He is the only man the only person the only the one that can save us. His answer makes clear that salvation is totally just a complete work of God apart from the grace of God is impossible for any man especially a rich man to enter into God's Kingdom. That humanly speaking no one can be saved by his own efforts or by his own possessions. But what we can never do for ourselves. God has done for us for he is the great doer of the impossible. Jesus is the only one who can save. How did this young man how young man missed this in his encounter with Jesus. Well I believe that second question of who am I needs to precede this understanding as well. So was the question was the answer to the question of who am I while Jesus tells the disciples right before the encounter with the rich young man in the same town where he encounters the young man. [00:23:25][91.0]

[00:23:26] People are bringing their little children and youth so he could bless them disciples they tried to stop it for a reason. Jesus tells them this. The little children come to me and do not hinder them for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth. Anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it only those who receive the kingdom of God like a little child will enter at what what is a little child like little child of someone who is as helpless a little child as someone who is needy a little child is someone who is lost. A little child is helpless needy and lost. Jesus is saying here that you will miss out on the kingdom miss out on understanding who you are who I am if you don't see yourself as someone who is helpless needy and lost someone who actually needs a savior someone who actually needs me. And you know you can see actually a progression in Paul's writings of him growing in his understanding of himself. He says in First Corinthians written about 56 A.D. that he calls himself the least of all the apostles someone who is unworthy of being an apostle. He says a few years later in a Ephesians at least he he calls himself the least of all God's people and then finally in First Timothy a couple of years later he calls himself the worst the worst of all sinners. The more Paul matured is faith the more the others who understand who Jesus was. [00:24:55][88.8]

[00:24:55] The more lowly the more humbly he saw himself in years Pogge progressed from view himself as the least of all the apostles the least of all the Christians to the worst of all sinners and wasn't because it became because he became more sinful he just more clearly saw himself someone who was helpless someone was needy someone who's lost someone who needed a savior someone who needed Jesus that young man missed this. He missed out on

understanding who Jesus was because his wealth was his god. He missed out understand who he was because he viewed himself as good as righteous as someone who didn't need to be saved. It is because of this. He could not put his complete allegiance to Jesus. So this brings us to us to you and me. So when you think about yourself when I think about myself where where's your heart. How do you view yourself. Would you relate more to Paul or would you relate more to this young man. Do you see yourself as helpless needy and lost someone who needs a savior someone who needs Jesus. Or do you see yourself as someone is self-sufficient independent and good someone who's already saved someone who doesn't need a safe someone who can save themselves. That's a hard question to really wrestle with because most people including myself does not want to call himself helpless needy and last you know the only the spear of God can be a victim of this convict us of this. The show of who we really are as helpless needy and lost. Only then can we see our need for a savior if we see ourselves as good as wealthy as religious we'll never see our true need for a savior. [00:26:48][113.1]

[00:26:50] We need the spirit to convict us also we need to ask Jesus a different question than what the rich young ruler asked him. Instead of asking what must I do to inherit eternal life which focuses on earning salvation. We need to ask him what is hindering me from giving my allegiance to you. What are the idols in my life. There are block of me from my relationship with you what do I lack in regards to being completely completely obedient to you. You know and with love and compassion Jesus will share this truth with you. And he will even provide the power to conquer it through his spirit. All because Jesus desires for us how the abundant life that only he can provide. But we need to see ourselves as helpless needy and lost and all that God can save us that only God can save us. As we close here this morning and we enter in a time of worship God the worship team we can actually come up on stage right now. I found that to this portion of Psalm 16 is a wonderful prayer remind us of who we are and who God is so for those here in the Baker Center as well as over in the sanctuary. Will you pray this portion of this psalm along with me outloud. I said to the Lord you are my lord. Apart from you. I have no good thing. The sorrows of those will increase to run after other gods. Lord you have assigned me my portion and my cup. You have made my locks secure therefore my heart is glad in my tongue. Rejoice as my body is secure because you will not abandon me to the grave. [00:28:37][107.3]

[00:28:38] You have made known to me the path of life. You will fill me with joy in your presence with eternal pleasures. Your right hand is a man. [00:28:47][8.6]

[1690.9]