

Is Jesus God Or Is He God?

The problem with Jesus in this story:

Mark 10:17-31

Didn't Jesus say that:

- He wasn't **God**?
- All **rich** people are going to **hell**?

The problem with the rich young ruler in this story:

Mark 10:17-22

Our rich friend:

- Knew who **Jesus was** and how to find **Jesus**.
- Came to Jesus with **urgency** and **humility**.
- Had lived a **good** life and followed the **Bible**.
- Asked for **salvation**.
- Walked away **sad**.

Maybe **religion** can leave us more **lost** than ever before?

What's our problem with this story?

Ephesians 2:8-9, James 2:15-25, Matthew 7:21-27, John 13:34-35, 14:23-24,
1 John 2:3-6, 3:16-18, 4:15-21

- An inheritance goes to **family**, not **fans**.
- The only role that **God** will play in our lives is **God**.
- What is the _____ that Jesus would ask me for today?

Food for Thought for the week of August 25, 2019

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. This weekend we studied the story of the rich young ruler. From the outside, it seems the man has it all together. He is rich (a sign of blessing in the Jewish culture), he has a humble approach to God and he seems to follow the law. Jesus, knowing his heart, gives him a shocking response – he asks him to sell all of his possessions and to then come follow him. What do the verses below teach us about our hearts and priorities as followers of Jesus?

Matthew 7:21-27 New International Version (NIV)

True and False Disciples

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

The Wise and Foolish Builders

²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Luke 14:26-27 New International Version (NIV)

²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

John 13:34-35 New International Version (NIV)

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

1 John 4:11-21 New International Version (NIV)

¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

2. In a similar way to the rich young ruler, Zacchaeus had his own issues with money. It seems as if Jesus searches the depths of our story and soul to point out the areas where we still need to trust him with obedience. Read about Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus (Luke 19:1-9). What similarities do you see between the rich young ruler and Zacchaeus' story? How are their steps of obedience different?

Luke 19:1-9 New International Version (NIV)

Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

19 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” ⁶So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

⁸But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

⁹Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.

3. As you reflect on the call to follow Jesus with all aspects of your life, read [Psalm 139](#). As you read this prayer, think about how much God loves you, knows you and desires a relationship with you. Pray and meditate on verses 23-24 and ask yourself the question Chris asked at the end of his message: What area of your life might God ask for your trust or obedience today? (Examples: finances, parenting, work, hobbies, dating relationship, marriage, etc.)