

What Do I Still Lack?

Introduction

1. **Have we ever just stopped and asked ourselves that question?**
 - A. **Religiously, it is a very good question – a question that deserves an honest answer.**

2. **In our text this morning we see a young man who seemed to have everything going for him.**
 - A. **He was youthful, energetic, and wealthy.**
 - B. **He was a good moral man.**
 - 1) **But was that enough?**
 - C. **Could he be sure of obtaining eternal life?**
 - D. **Running to Jesus, he asked “*what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?*”**
 - 1) **Did he really want to know?**
 - 2) **Was he really prepared to do what the master instructed him?**

3. **Let’s examine this text of scripture to see what this young man did and to make sure that we are really willing to follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

Matthew 19:16-22

Jesus Answered the Young Man

1. **The answer that Jesus gave to the young man was** *“if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”*
2. **After quoting from the Ten Commandments, Jesus concluded with** *“you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*
3. **At this point, the young man responded with** *“all these things I have kept from my youth – what do I still lack?”*

Jesus Knows Where Our True Love Lies

1. **Jesus knows what men truly love.**
2. **He knew this young man lacked a genuine love for God above all else.**
 - A. **This man’s love for his possessions was greater than his love for God.**
3. **Jesus replied,** *“If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor....and come and follow Me.”*
 - A. **This was necessary. Why?**
 - 1) **So that God, rather than his possessions, would become the object of his first love.**
 - B. **Unfortunately, he was not willing to do that.**
4. **The young man went away sorrowful.**
 - A. **His misplaced affection kept him from receiving eternal life!**

Making the Application

- 1. Many people, like this young man, claim to be good.**
 - A. They have had a religious upbringing and hold to good morals.**
 - B. They go to church, treat others respectfully, and have never hurt anyone.**
 - 1) But does God require anything more – in order to obtain eternal life?**
- 2. Yes He does!**
 - A. If we will inherit eternal life, God must hold first place in our hearts.**
 - 1) Before that can happen, the pride of who and what we are must be dethroned and denied the right to rule.**
 - B. Jesus said:**

Luke 9:23 "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

- 1) When we surrender ourselves to God, he gives us a heart that loves Him more than anyone or anything else.**

- 3. A true love for God will exceed the love for our parents, spouses, children, and even ourselves.**

Matthew 10:34-39

- A. We will love Him more than money, fame, or the praise of others**

- 4. How much should we love God? Let Jesus tell us:**

Mark 12:30 And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

How Do We Express Our Love for God?

- 1. When we readily obey God's commands in the Bible.**

John 14:15 If you love Me, keep My commandments.

- A. We gladly follow Him regardless of what our families or friends may say.**
- B. We willingly give up anything that hinders our love for and obedience to God.**

- 2. Jesus promised everlasting life to those who give up possessions and family for His sake.**

Matthew 19:29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.

- A. NOTHING is so valuable that it is worth losing eternal life!**

Conclusion

1. Do you love God more than anything else?
2. Is there anything in your life you are not willing to give up, to obey God's commands?
3. If you were to ask God, "What do I still lack?" what would His answer be to you?

Invitation

Place	Date
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

What Do I Still Lack.wpd
Richard Thetford, August 2007 (Based on a pamphlet by Wesley Leinbach)