

Jesus – Not a Good Man

Name of God: Yahweh ha Tzaddik – God the Righteous One (Psalm 7:9)

Mark 10:17-22 HCSB As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (18) "Why do you call Me good?" Jesus asked him. "No one is good but One--God. (19) You know the commandments: **Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not bear false witness; do not defraud; honor your father and mother.**" (20) He said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these from my youth." (21) Then, looking at him, Jesus loved him and said to him, "You lack one thing: Go, sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me." (22) But he was stunned at this demand, and he went away grieving, because he had many possessions.



I would like you to note a few things about this young ruler

First I'd like you to notice the good, positive things:

1. He met Jesus on the road – he was willing to have a public association with the Christ.
2. He came running – he was anxious about this encounter.
3. He knelt – he was willing to humble himself.
4. He called Yeshua "good" – he was willing to acknowledge the Master's moral character.
5. He called Yeshua "teacher" – he was willing to acknowledge the Master's wisdom.

There were a few basic underlying problems, however.

1. He asked "what must I do" – he thought salvation must be earned.
2. He responded "I have kept all these" – he wouldn't acknowledge his sinfulness.
3. He went away – he was unwilling to let go of his preconceptions.
4. He grieved – but it was not a godly sorrow
 - **2 Corinthians 7:10 HCSB (10)** For godly grief produces a repentance not to be regretted and leading to salvation, but worldly grief produces death.

But Jesus' response is as amazing for its simplicity as it is for its authoritative power.

1. Jesus rejects simple flattery.
 - **Proverbs 28:23 HCSB** One who rebukes a person will later find more favor than one who flatters with his tongue.
 - **Proverbs 29:5 HCSB** A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.
2. Jesus compels us to acknowledge that God is the source of all goodness.
3. Jesus forces us to acknowledge that He is God.
4. Jesus calls us to acknowledge Him as Savior
 - **John 14:6 HCSB** Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
 - **1 Timothy 2:3-6 HCSB** This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, (4) who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (5) For there is one God and one mediator between God and man, a man, Christ Jesus, (6) who gave Himself--a ransom for all, a testimony at the proper time.

5. Jesus calls us to acknowledge Him as Lord

- [Philippians 2:5-11 HCSB](#) (5) Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus, (6) who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage. (7) Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men. And when He had come as a man in His external form, (8) He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death--even to death on a cross. (9) For this reason God also highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, (10) so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow--of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth-- (11) and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

That Lordship stems in part from His miraculous ability to resurrect from the dead. Jesus' resurrection raises Him from the level of a mere good man, a teacher, prophet or visionary. We must choose whether to believe in His resurrection or not. To deny the resurrection is to deny His divinity.

Ah, but to accept the resurrection is so much more than accepting His divinity. It means that there is hope. There is life after death. None of our mistakes need be final. There is always a "do over" available. That's what Peter learned. Though he denied the Christ three times, and watched the One he denied die a cruel death on the cross, three days later he got a second chance. His repentance was not too late.