

4th Reason: He didn't understand 'treasure in heaven.'

- i) Jesus Christ is our treasure in heaven. When you have Him, you're rich both in this life and the next.
- ii) You are God's 'treasure in heaven.'

"Jesus, who being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant; He humbled Himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross." Philippians 2:6

Question: Why was Jesus willing to make that sacrifice for me?

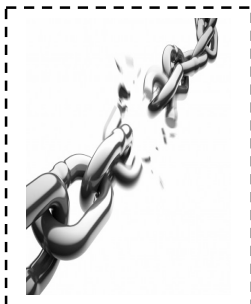
.....

.....

"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36.

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." Galatians 5:1

Question: What one thing will I do so that I can better enjoy the



freedom that Jesus has made possible for me?

.....

.....

.....

.....

Words from John Newton's hymn:

"Since I have known the Saviour's name; and what for me He bore; no more I toil for empty fame; I thirst for gold no more; placed by his hand in this retreat; I make His love my theme; and see that all the world calls great; is but a waking dream."



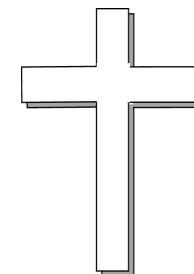
**St James, Oxford Road, Gerrards Cross
Sunday 13th March 2011 – 9am & 10.30am Services**

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL OF MARK

The Grip of Wealth

Mark 10:17-31:

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



"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36.

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." Galatians 5:1

The Grip of Wealth: whether we have it or we don't have it, it can prevent us being free.

What we know about this man? Young; wealthy; someone with authority; upright and respectable.
(Mark 10:17-22; Matthew 19:16-30; Luke 18:18-30)

His question to Jesus: *'Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life.'* (Matthew 19:16)

Eternal life: A new quality of life in personal relationship with God now and forever. *"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."* (John 17:3)

Four reasons why this man went away sad:

1st Reason: Christianity is a whole new life. He wrongly assumed that Christianity is something that you can add to your life to make it better.

'Those who become Christians become new persons. They're not the same anymore, for the old is gone. A new life has begun'

2 Corinthians 5:17

(Compare: Jesus' discussion with Nicodemus in John 3:1-8. *'You must be born again.'*)

Jesus is not something that we can just add into our lives to fill them out; He's a whole new way of life.

Question: What are the implications of this for me?

.....

2nd Reason: He wrongly assumed that knowing and being accepted by God, is something we can achieve by doing good things.

E.g. Keeping the Ten Commandments

Problem: If that was true, everyone would fail. *"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."*

Romans 3:23 (NLT)

We can only come to know God, on the basis of what Jesus has done for us the cross.

3rd Reason: Jesus got personal. *'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.'*" Mark 10:21

Power struggle: where was he going to look for his security and fulfilment in life: To his money or to Jesus.

Question: Where am I looking to find my security and fulfilment?

.....

Do I need to make some changes?

Money can be very damaging spiritually:

Lack of money can create: Envy – bitterness – anxiety – over-work – burnout – illness – family breakdown..

Abundance of money can create: selfishness – materialism – lack of generosity to those in need – disregard of God.

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