**DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE TALKING TO?**

***Trust and Obey***

“***Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments***." (Matthew 19:16-17)

The question was asked by a man we often call the “*rich young ruler*” because Matthew tells us he was young (vs. 20,22) and had great possessions (vs. 22), while Luke tells us he was a ruler (Luke 18:18). But we might also label him the rich young religious man, for we soon learn he went to great lengths to keep God’s commandments all his life. When Jesus rattled off five of the ten commandments, he quickly responded, "*All these things I have kept from my youth*." Very impressive, don’t you think?

Now I would think Jesus could use some wealthy disciples in His ministry. But what I think and what Jesus thinks are two different things. Instead of embracing this man for being so devout in his commandment keeping, Jesus challenges him with a question, and then a proposition.

First, the question: “*Why do you call me good*?” That seems odd, for surely everyone could see Jesus was good. But the Lord wanted him to realize WHO He was talking to before He offered an earth-shaking proposition. Jesus was not denying He wasn’t good, He was re-directing this man’s realization to the fact he was actually talking to GOD! If that incredible thought had sunk home he would have had no problem accepting the life-changing challenge.

So Jesus (aka G-O-D) not only asked him if he had kept the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th commandments (he said he had kept them from his youth), He now includes the 10th commandment of “*Thou shalt not covet*.” This then led to the proposition: “*Sell all you have, give to the poor, then follow Me*” (who often has nowhere to lay His head – Matt. 8:20).

Sadly, he couldn’t bring himself to do it, thus exposing his covetous heart. He couldn’t serve two masters, God and money (Matthew 6:24). He went away sorrowful … and lost his soul!

Like Pilate, who asked Jesus at His trial, “*What is truth*?” – not realizing He was staring “The Way, The Truth, The Life” right in the face, so now this rich young man failed to understand he was also looking right into the eyes of God as he asked “*What lack I yet*?”

He asked the greatest question on earth “*What must I do to inherit eternal life*?” to the greatest person on earth, and then, like Pilate, walked away. Can you imagine what those two will think throughout eternity after once again standing before Jesus at the judgment? They will surely regret forever not listening to the Lord’s answer and responding accordingly.

But that leads us to the same dilemma. Jesus is not only Pilate’s answer to what is truth, and the ruler’s answer to gaining eternal life, but He is also our answer to every question we wish to ask.

When you ask God questions in your prayers, do you know who you’re talking to? In effect Jesus was telling that rich young ruler to trust and obey Him. When the Lord tells you to obey ALL the commandments to inherit eternal life, do you know who is talking to you?

Unlike those two rulers long ago, don’t just ask and then walk away, trust and obey, for there’s no other way. Which, of course, brings up my favorite childhood song I have sung since I was knee-high to a grasshopper. I still love it. I hope you do too.

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His word  
What a glory He sheds on our way.

While we do His good will, He abides with us still,

And with all who will trust and obey.

Not a shadow can rise, Not a cloud in the skies,

But His smile quickly drives it away;

Not a doubt nor a fear, Not a sigh nor a tear,

Can abide while we trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear, Not a sorrow we share,

But our toil He doth richly repay;

Not a grief nor a loss, Not a frown nor a cross,

But is blest if we trust and obey.

But we never can prove The delights of His love

Until all on the altar we lay;

For the favor He shows, And the joy He bestows,

Are for those who will trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet, We will sit at His feet,

Or we’ll walk by His side in the way;

What He says we will do, Where He sends we will go

Never fear, only trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there’s no other way,

To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

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