

## The Parable of the Rich Young Ruler

### A Few Personal Comments

For centuries, the Rich Young Ruler has been maligned by “good Christians.” He’s portrayed as one of the “bad characters” of the Bible. It is said that he is a moral coward and a man lacking commitment. With a smug expression, many of us have thought, “If I had been in his shoes the story would have had a different ending.”

### What do we know about the Rich Young Ruler?

1. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ him.  
*Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him.* Mark 10:21 (NLT)
2. He was \_\_\_\_\_.  
*A certain ruler asked him ...* Luke 18:18 (NIV)  
*Once a Jewish religious leader asked him ...* Luke 18:18 (TLB)
3. He was \_\_\_\_\_.  
*As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him ...* Mark 10:17 (NLT)
4. He was \_\_\_\_\_.  
*As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down ...* Mark 10:17 (NLT)
5. He was \_\_\_\_\_.  
*As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”* Mark 10:17 (NLT)

### A Specific Prescription for a Specific Problem

*“There is still one thing you haven’t done,” he told him. “Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”* -- Mark 10:21 (NLT)

### The Bottom Line

The call to follow Jesus is a radical one. An unhealthy and unprioritized “load” prohibits you from being a fully-devoted follower of Jesus Christ. The result is an emotionally empty, spiritually depleted life.

Primary sources: *Margin* by Richard Swenson, M.D.; *In Search of Balance* by Richard Swenson, M.D.; *The Overload Syndrome* by Richard Swenson, M.D.; *Character Qualities of the Rich Young Ruler* by Rev. Brett Blain.



sermon notes

No Margin, Balance, Time,  
Love or Money  
October 6, 2019  
Pastor John Speight

(Jesus said,) *Come to me, all who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11:28 (GN)

### Why are so many of us “sick & tired?”

We believe that living life without **margin** and **balance** due to unhealthy and unprioritized **loads** is “normal.”

A quick review of last week’s message:

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 teaches us that ...

- Unless I love, everything I SAY is just noise
- Unless I love, everything I KNOW is incomplete
- Unless I love, everything I BELIEVE is not enough
- Unless I love, everything I GIVE is of no value

### The Rich Young Ruler

Mark 10:17-22 (NLT)

*As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”*

*“Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked. “Only God is truly good. But to answer your question, you know the commandments: ‘You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and mother.’”*

*“Teacher,” the man replied, “I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was young.”*

*Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. “There is still one thing you haven’t done,” he told him. “Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”*

*At this the man’s face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.*

## Answer Key

1. Jesus **GENUINELY LOVED** him.

*Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him.* Mark 10:21 (NLT)

2. He was **BRAVE**.

*A certain ruler asked him ...* Luke 18:18 (NIV)

*Once a Jewish religious leader asked him ...* Luke 18:18 (TLB)

3. He was **EAGER**.

*As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him...* Mark 10:17 (NLT)

4. He was **HUMBLE**.

*As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down ...* Mark 10:17 (NLT)

5. He was **GENUINE**.

*As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"* Mark 10:17 (NLT)