

Matthew 19:16-22

¹⁶ Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”

¹⁷ “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.”

¹⁸ “Which ones?” he inquired.

Jesus replied, “Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, ¹⁹ honour your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbour as yourself.”

²⁰ “All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?”

²¹ Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

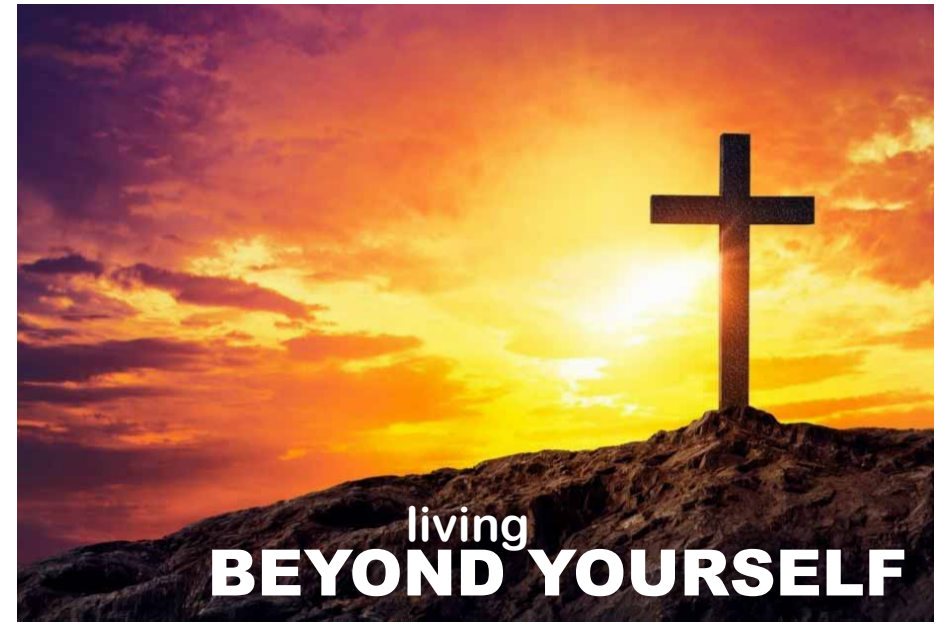
²² When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Study Continued (from inside page)

9. Based on all your answers to the previous questions, how can you live a life ‘beyond yourself’?

Is there anything that needs to change for this to be accomplished?

10. Put yourself in the position of the rich young ruler. How could things have worked out differently? What would it have taken for him to walk away happy instead of sad?



Now to him who is able to do
immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,
according to his power that is at work within us,
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout
all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.
Ephesians 3:20-21



How Big is Your God?

After Henry Norris Russell, a noted Princeton University astronomer had given a lecture on the Milky Way, a woman approached him and asked, “If our world is so little and the universe is so great, how can we believe that God really pays any attention to us?”

Dr. Russell replied, “That depends madam, entirely on how big of a God you believe in.”



2022 Challenge: Living Beyond Yourself

What is life about?

SO, WHAT'S OUR PROBLEM?

Why did the rich young ruler ask about what "good" thing he needed to do to gain eternal life?

v.17-19 Keeping the commandments:

v.20 "All these I have kept," the young man said. "_____?"

Two problems, common to many:

1. _____

What did he lack?

v.21 "If you want to be perfect...."

2. _____

Why did Jesus tell him to sell everything and give it to the poor?

WHAT WILL IT TAKE - to live beyond ourselves?

1. _____

Eph 3:16-17

2. _____

Eph 3:18-19

What is love?

1 John 4:10

3. _____

Eph 3:20-21

1. Read Matthew 19:16-22. What are your first thoughts about the young man in this story?
2. It is so easy to get caught up in running our lives around our work, careers, family, pleasures etc. Do you think that there's a tendency to just fit being a Christian into everything else?
3. The rich young ruler seemed to have everything going for him. He was successful, rich, had power, position, good morals, and was religious. But he also knew that there was something missing in his life. What do you think he expected Jesus to tell him to do?
4. One of the problems that many people have to deal with, is feeling empty inside. Have you experienced this in your own life? Why do you think you felt this way? If so, how have you dealt with it?
5. Another problem that people have, is being tied too tightly to this world. It could be through money and possessions (like the rich young ruler), or it can be through many other things, such as: A career, the past, family, pride, pleasures etc... Is there anything that ties you to this world? Another way to consider this question is to ask: Is there anything I couldn't give up to follow Jesus?
6. So, what will it take to, "live beyond ourselves"? Read Ephesians 3:16-17a. Paul gives us the first essential in his prayer. What is it?

Why do we need to be "strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being", in order to have Christ dwell in our hearts through faith?
7. Read Ephesians 3:17b -19. What is the second essential? Why do we need the power of God, in order to grasp the immensity of the love of God?

What do you think is necessary for us to be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God?
8. Read Ephesians 3:19-20. What kind of things can you imagine that God can do?

What do you think it means, "according to His power that is at work within us"?