

## I Surrender All?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**Mark 10:17-22.** "And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor; and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions."

This man represents those who have religion, but come short of having the proper relationship with the Lord. Even with keeping the law and being a good person he knew that he was lacking in his spiritual life.

People all over the world have religion, but many of them do not know Jesus as Lord. Some even say that they believe that he lived, but they can't accept the fact that he is the Son of God. What did this particular man believe?

He called Jesus Good Master, but not Lord. He saw Jesus as a good man, maybe a prophet, but not as the Son of God. To be saved one must believe that he is the saviour, the Christ, not just a man. Jesus told him that only God was good as it is written in **Psalms 14: 1-3**. Still, this man came to the right person to ask about eternal life. He ask the right question, of the right person, but was not ready to accept the right answer.

Evidently he thought that there was little, if anything, that he needed to do. After all, he was a good man, he kept the law and had since he was a child. He was proud of that, both of what he had done and the evil that he had not done. That is a religion of works and no man can be saved by his works, no matter how good they are.

Jesus told him to give all he had to the poor and to come and follow, or walk, with him. This shocked the man because he had great wealth and couldn't bear the thought of giving it up. He wanted eternal life, but at what

cost? If the Lord had told him to give a large sum to the poor he probably would have done it, but certainly not all of his money. It takes faith in the Lord to give up money, or earthly goals, to serve God. He was willing to resist sin and to keep the commandments but to trust God enough to put his day to day life in his hands was too much. There are those who will not commit great sins, but who will not serve the Lord either.

The apostles left their jobs, homes, and families to walk with God. The Lord took care of them and would have taken care of this man too. Was he afraid that he would go hungry, or was it just that he didn't want to give up his comforts? Whatever his thinking, he was willing to surrender some of his life to the Lord, but not willing to surrender all. Jesus is either Lord of all, or he is Lord of none in our lives.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him," **Hebrews 11:6**. It is not just what we do, or don't do, but the faith that we have to walk with God in this world. Our faith is why we obey the Lord and witness of him. Only when a person has faith in Jesus will he surrender all to him.

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