

## The Rich Young Ruler

Matthew 19:21

*“Jesus said to him, ‘If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.’”*

There is a piercing honesty in this moment. The rich young ruler stands before Christ with a life that appears whole, yet the Lord speaks to the one place still untouched. *“If you want to be perfect...”*, not flawless in the sense of human achievement, but brought into fullness, into alignment with the will and life of God revealed in Christ.

What Jesus reveals is not merely a command about possessions, but a revelation of the heart. The instruction to sell what he has uncovers what holds him. It is not the wealth itself that stands condemned, but the quiet allegiance beneath it; the place where trust, identity, and security have settled apart from God. Christ, in His love, places His finger upon that hidden throne.

To *“sell what you have”* becomes, in its deeper sense, a surrender of whatever competes with Him. Every life has its own version of this; something gripped too tightly, something that subtly shapes decisions, priorities, and affections. And the call of Christ is not partial. He does not negotiate with the divided heart; He invites it to be made whole.

Then comes the outward expression: *“give to the poor.”* The inward surrender is meant to become outward love. When the heart is released from its lesser treasures, it becomes free to reflect the generosity of God. What once served self begins to serve the purposes of heaven. The life turns outward, no longer orbiting around its own preservation, but participating in the mercy and compassion of Christ.

*“And you will have treasure in heaven.”* This is not a distant promise meant only for the age to come, but a present reality that begins even now. To be aligned with Christ is to step into a different economy altogether; one where obedience carries eternal weight, where love becomes substance, and where the soul finds its true riches in communion with Him.

Matthew 6:21 *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

Finally, the call that gathers it all together: *“come, follow Me.”* This is the heart of it. Not merely letting go, not merely giving, but entering into a living union with Christ Himself. The surrender is not an end; it is the doorway. What is released from our hands makes room for Him to take His rightful place within us.

And here is the transformation: when Christ becomes the treasure, everything else finds its proper place. The soul is no longer divided. It is gathered, anchored, and led. What once

felt like loss becomes the beginning of life, for in losing what cannot last, we lay hold of what is eternal.

In this way, laying up treasure in heaven is not simply about a future reward; it is about being brought into harmony with the will of God now, walking in step with the Son, and becoming a vessel through which His life is revealed.