Introduction: Our text for this lesson comes from Matthew 19.16-22; Mark 10.17-22; and Luke 1818-23. This is not a parable but an actual person who came asking Jesus a question. He asked a question that we should all be concerned with "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" There are a number of lessons we can learn from this question and text.

**I) Rich People Followed After Jesus**

**A) Often we notice the poor who were following after Him.**

1. Jesus spoke of the poor in numerous passages, **Matthew 5.3**

2. He spent a great deal of time with the poor. When asked if He was the Messiah, He responded in **Luke 7.22.**

**B) But there were well off people who came to Him**

1. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea to name two.

2. The rich had greater obstacles in following Jesus due to their wealth, **Matthew 19.23-24**

**C) The poor and rich are equally in need of the Gospel**

1. Both have souls and both have sins.

2. Jesus died for both.

**II) Good People Followed After Jesus**

**A) There were people from all walks of life.**

1. Some were labeled as "great sinners" such as **Luke 7.37-39.**

2. But many were just common ordinary people who wanted to live their lives and be left alone.

**B) This young man was a good person.**

1. Both by what he had not done and what he had done.

a. Not murdered anyone, take the life of an innocent person

b. Not committed adultery -- morally pure

c. Not stolen anything from anyone

d. Not bore false witness, told lies about anyone

e. He had honored his father and mother

f. He had loved his neighbor as himself. **Matthew 22.39**

2. Most of us would classify someone like this as a really good person.

**III) Religious People Followed After Jesus**

**A) Jesus spent His time with the descendants of Abraham**

1. They had the prophecies and were waiting for the Messiah, **Luke 4.16-21**

2. The limited commission was the "lost sheep of the house of Israel" **Matthew 10.6.**

**B) This man was religious man**

1. He had kept the Law of Moses

2. Jesus did not deny his claim of keeping the commandments from his youth.

a. We read of Jesus at the temple, the synagogues; places of worship

b. Even the non-Jews were religious people, i.e. the Samaritan woman, **John 4.**

**IV) Some People Left Jesus Feeling Sad**

**A) This man left Jesus being sad, Matthew 19.22**

1. Being close to being saved was not enough.

2. He sold out Jesus for his material wealth.

**B) John 6 a lot of people left Jesus**

**V) Application**

**A) Rich people**

1. Can be saved but they have many obstacles, **Matthew 19.25-2**6

2. We can either use our wealth and resources to serve God or they will be a burden, **1 Timothy 6.17-19** (Lydia was a rich woman who obeyed the Gospel)

**B) Good people**

1 They can be lost as this young man was. There will be a lot of good people in hell, **Matthew 7.13-14**

2. Good people sin against God and are in need of Jesus' cleansing blood.

**C) Religious people**

1. They can be lost because they are either worshipping God in vain or stop short of doing all Jesus demands.

2. The rich young ruler sold out Jesus for his money. Some sell out Jesus for their family, job, popularity, traditions, etc.

**D) Some left sad and some rejoiced.**

1. This young man was sad? Why? Did he know he was lost?

2. Those who obeyed rejoiced, **Acts 8.**

Conclusion: What if you could ask Jesus today "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" and Jesus said.... Would you do it? We know what we must do, obey His commandments. How about you?