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Christ's Greatest Challenge

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CHRIST'S GREATEST CHALLENGE

I. YOUNG RULER'S QUESTION: "What good THING?" Act, deed, ceremony, rite or favor I DO?

A. He pre-supposed FOUR imp. things: (did!)
   3. Jesus would give HIM the one-easy step to eternal life. OR (couldn't) Not one.
   4. Jesus would ADMIT, before all, that HE, tho being rich, was also VERY RIGHTEOUS. (didn't)

CONCLUSION: Asked Jesus to look at his credit-balance and crown him safe & sound!

II. THE SAVIOR'S REPLY. Vs. 17-19.

1. Keep the commandments. RULER: "Which?"
   a. Don't take another's wife. Adultry!
   b. Don't take another's life. Murder!!
   c. Don't take another's property. Stealing!
   d. Don't take another's influence. False Wi
   e. Don't neglect your old parents. Honor.
   f. Love your neighbors as yourself!!

CONCLUSION: Live perfectly the LAW under which you live!!! RULER: "Have! What else?"

III. THE BOMB-SHELL ANSWER!!! "THE WHOLE THING..ALL!!"

A. First: You HAVE NOT loved your NEIGHBOR AS yourself!!! You Rich, rich, rich. They, poor!!
B. Second: You ASKED for "COMPLETE GOODNESS" and you DO NOT have it!!! Not a complete life!!!
C. Third: There are SIX things you haven't consid
   1. You asked to be absolutely and consummately GOOD, like God! The best!!!
   2. You are NOT as perfect in life as you think
   3. You have SINNED passively. You have not given ALL, BEST! God gave His BEST!!!
   4. You love EARTH more than you do HEAVEN!!!
   5. You love SOMETHING MORE than you do God!
   6. You ARE NOT willing to obey God at ALL COST!!! Vs. Lk. 18:22. Sell ALL! Give all!
IV. WHAT DOES THIS EPISODE SAY TO ME? Application!!!

A. Don't be deceived by your apparent goodness. I Cor. 10:12. Haven't come fully to grips with life's temptations and challenges--YET!!

III. H. S. quarterback. H. S. cheer-leader. (Sunset) PCs!! Committed fornication!! Blew his college career! "Come home, daddy!!" He did. (1964). He unfaithful to her. She to him. Soon divorced! He married twice more. She three!! Ruined rotten!!

QUESTION: "Preacher, what good thing can I do to inherit eternal life?" ANSWER: "THE WHOLE THING!!" Cannot scripturally remarry, but give the REST of your life in cross-bearing and following Jesus". He went away sorrowful because He had too great EARTHLY desires.LOST

B. RE-examine your system of Values & Conduct. I Cor. 15:33. I Thess. 5:21, 22; Vs. 23! MATT. 6:33. THE WHOLE THING--FIRST!!!!

III. Christian girl chosen Queen of the Ball at a Beaumont H. S. Chosen overwhelmingly by the student-body! Accepted too hastily. Studied it out with her Christian mother. Monday before the Friday Ball, addressed the student body in assembly. Said: "I have done a dreadful thing! I have accepted your wish for me to reign as the Queen of the Ball, but as a Christian, I could not attend the DANCE. I would have to leave after the CARNATION. That would not be fair, so I hereby relinquish my crown." Response? A standing ovation and thunderous applause for several minutes.School ruled out the DANCE 2 yrs. later in favor of an Annual carnival--something for ALL!!!

INV: CLOSE WITH FOUR QUESTIONS TO CHALLENGE YOUR HEART

1. If asked to GIVE ALL, as the Rich Ruler, would YOU have done it? Are you a CHRISTIAN now? Willing & ready to GIVE your ALL!!!!
Mk. 16:16.

2. You feel like scolding This Young Man?? You any better?? Whole life is a LIGHT for Jesus? THE WHOLE THING!! If not, Acts 8:22.

3. You care about OTHERS? He didn't! Then you will PRESERVE the highest influence possible. ARE YOU??

4. Willing to respond to His call TODAY? No DELAY