

He Wanted a Savior, but not a Sovereign

“What do I have to do to have eternal life?” This was the question of a man of the most zealous branch of the seed of Abraham, a child of the promise and the covenant with his father, Abraham. Yet this man knew that he didn’t have the one thing above all others that could rectify his erring soul, which longed for it. So, he saw the One who could give it to him, and he ran up, knelt down before him, and asked “Good Teacher, what must I do in order to have eternal life? What must I do? I want to know. Please, tell me, and I will do it. What I must do to have eternal life? I will do it.”

This rich young ruler must have believed in him or he would never have asked him this question. You just don’t go up and ask anyone for eternal life. His quest was for the one thing he lacked to fill that void inside, which made him know that he had not passed out of death and into eternal life. When the Master told him the very thing he needed to do in order to have what he lacked, in order to know that he had eternal life, he wouldn’t do it. Why would he not do it? Why would he not do what he had to do to have what he asked for — even though he lacked the certain confidence that he was not only a physical son of Abraham, but a spiritual son, one who would do what Abraham did (Jn 8:39) in order to have his belief tested and justified? (Jms 2:21-24)

The rich young ruler in Mk 10:17 believed in Abraham. He knew that Abraham’s faith or his trust was tested by what he did. Abraham’s sonship was confirmed and his faith was justified. So, the rich young ruler, who claimed to be a son of Abraham, wanted to confirm his faith as well, so he asked the question, “What should I do?”

Abraham endured the test and demonstrated his complete trust in Yahweh. Our Master told the rich young ruler what he must do himself to confirm or complete his own knowledge, to relieve his own deep-down doubt. 1 Jn 3:14,16,23 and Jn 15:8 is for any “believer” who claims to believe (Jn 9:41). Mk 10:21 — “You lack one thing that you must do in order to fill the void you feel deep down inside that is keeping you from

knowing that you have eternal life” (Jn 5:24; 1 Jn 3:14,16,23). It was the same thing the Master had commanded all His disciples to do (Jn 13:34-35; 14:15,21).

Here, the rich young ruler, as the other Jews in Jn 8:39, was not doing the essential thing that all true sons of Abraham would be doing (Gal 3:26-29). The true faith of Abraham results in the deeds of Acts 2:44-45 and Acts 4:32-37, as the example of Barnabas giving up everything he had, including his land, and sharing it.

So, what about the couple in Acts 5:1? Were they true sons of Abraham? Did they belong to Messiah? What if they were among those in Acts 2:37 who cried out, “What must we do?” and then in Acts 2:40-41, after having heard the many other words, were baptized (verse 38), but did not do what all the rest were doing in Acts 2:44-45? What if they just held onto their farm and their possessions or their vocation and would not give up their family members who contested their baptism and “the covenant” they made to follow our Master and do His commandments? (Lk 14:26-27; Mk 10:28-30). The couple in Acts 5:1 were not like Barnabas in Acts 4:37, but kept some of their proceeds back, “just in case things didn’t work out” (a warning they probably heard from their family and friends, Mk 3:31-35). They didn’t obey the “many other words” (Mt 28:20).

By not giving all of their money, they showed that they didn’t love their brothers. Perhaps they wanted to appear to be like Barnabas. Why should he get all the praise? Then the one who doesn’t have a lot of money doesn’t get such praise, when the one who gives up all is just doing what he is supposed to do.

Do you think the couple in Acts 5:1 had the inner confidence of knowing they had passed out of death and into eternal life? 1 Jn 3:14,16,23 was the very thing they would not do to be regarded as true sons of Abraham, the very thing they still lacked to have the inner confidence, without doubt, which is what faith is. Faith is knowing and having made the proper confession. Rom 5:5 comes after faith, the faith of Abraham (Jn 8:39). That’s when the love of God is poured out into our hearts. Jn 14:15,21 — They still lacked this inner disclosure of the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:16).

“What must I do, Good Teacher?” The Master did what He later commanded His disciples to do (Mt 28:19-20), teaching the rich young ruler to obey what He had commanded all His disciples to do. Rev 22:14 are those who keep His commandments, which proves or justifies their faith.

The rich young ruler’s property value estimates went sky high in his eyes after he turned down eternal life for them. No amount of money could buy his property after this encounter with the very Son of God, who could have given him eternal life if he had received the faith to obey. He had no excuse as to the integrity of the Sent One (Jn 7:17-18).

It is true that eternal life is a free gift, but who does our Father give it to? To those in Jn 2:23? If one believes in his heart in order to *confess* Yahshua as Sovereign (Rom 10:9-10), he receives eternal life, for God knows what is in his heart, and if it is *His* faith, He entrusts Himself to him.

But what about Jn 9:39-41? What about the couple in Acts 5:1? Did they entrust themselves to the One who would have entrusted Himself to them if they had truly believed and trusted Him? What kind of belief did they have? And what kind of belief did the rich young ruler have for him to ask such a request?

The rich young ruler represented the most zealous and noteworthy people on earth. Don’t you think that on the Day of Atonement he had given the best of his flock to atone for his sins? But did he go away feeling empty, not forgiven for some reason? He did not have confidence. He still lacked one thing — true faith. He lacked the faith that Abraham had; as James said, “Faith without works is dead,” as the rich young ruler felt deep inside. His hunger was still unsatisfied, the craving unmet with peace. The bond of peace was missing in his life (Eph 4:2-3). He didn’t have the bond of peace with his friends. He lacked the first and greatest commandment. He lacked love, not only the love for the Lord his God, but for his neighbors as well. But then how could he ever think to

call Yahweh his Lord and Master as in Mt 22:37-40? No wonder he had this deep craving and regret in him.

He suffered the lack of something which he knew he lacked and the only place to satisfy that lack was Yahshua. He was the only one who could give him what he lacked. But, what must he do in order to have it — this quest for eternal life, which he knew he didn't have? There was something essential he lacked — he lacked life, real life (1 Jn 5:12). He lacked that life that he asked for. He lacked divine nature (2 Pet 1:4; Jn 5:26). Our Master knew He had life. Aren't we supposed to know the same thing? He has the uncreated life of His Father. He has eternal life in Him, and He imparts eternal life to us, by the laying on of hands at baptism of His loyal disciples.

The rich young ruler wanted eternal life. It was not enough for him to believe Yahshua was the Savior. He obviously believed He was the Savior, for He asked Him for eternal life. But he had to confess Him as Sovereign – one who commands obedience to test all of mankind who hears His words through a sent one (Rom 10:16-17; Jn 13:20). What the rich young ruler wanted he would not obey to obtain. He could not confess Yahshua as Sovereign, but only as Savior (Rom 10:9-10). Otherwise, he would have obeyed Him.

I am just showing his heart. He confessed Him as Savior, but not as Lord. Christians believe Him enough to go to heaven (or so they think), but not enough to obey Him, confess Him as Sovereign. Therefore, it is a false belief. If it is true belief, when you walk away from the waters, you know you are going to obey Him. Christians want Him as Savior, but won't confess Him as Sovereign. Why? Because they are as Jn 2:23-25. They do not obey because they do not trust. But how could they? They have never yet heard the Word from a sent one of the stature of Jn 7:18 (13:20; Lk 10:16; Mt 10:41).

Those who “claim to see” have to deny what the rich young ruler could not deny — that he did not have eternal life. Nevertheless, he loved his own life and lost it,

altogether, for eternity (Mk 8:34-35). He wanted eternal life, but he wanted to hold on to his own life as well. He didn't count the cost (Lk 14:28). Jn 12:25 is why he wouldn't follow Him, so he could not do Jn 12:26. "You can't follow Me if you don't trust Me" (Mk 10:21; Lk 9:23). His eternal destiny will be even as Mt 25:41. The rich young ruler heard the gospel from a sent one (Jn 7:18; quite an understatement). He asked for eternal life but he lost it forever and ever (Lk 16:28). Why? Because he wouldn't confess Yahshua's sovereignty and obey Him.

Rom 10:9-10 – "Will you confess that He is Sovereign?"

"I don't know if I can."

"Why not?"

"Because I don't know if I really trust Him. Is there any way I can have eternal life if I don't obey Him, or trust in Him?"

"Yeah, yeah, go your own way. You can have eternal life."

Where will his eternal life end up? In Mt 25:41.

Most people would acknowledge Him as Savior but not as ruler or judge or king over their life (Jdg 17:6; 21:25). If you say He is your Sovereign, it means "Everything I have belongs to You." He is no one's Savior if He is also not their Sovereign.

A sent one will baptize you right into the Body of Messiah. If he is not a *true* sent one, he will tell you to go to a Bible-believing church. There are two kinds of sent ones in Jn 7:18. A *true* sent one from God will cut you off from this world.

Jn 5:16-47 speaks about the John the Baptist, who also said Jn 3:36. The word *obey* in 2 Ths 1:8 is #5219, which these cowards are afraid to put in since it sounds like "works salvation." #5219 means to obey, to listen to something, hearken, obey — the obedience of faith, as Paul said in Rom 1:5. Keeping the word in obedience, as Phil 2:12 says. #5219 means to hear as a subordinate, to hearken, to be obedient, to obey. Someone who hears, considers, and rejects the good news will go the lake of fire (Jn 3:18,36 as opposed to Acts 13:48).

There is one who “believes” and yet does not obey the Son. The rich young ruler did not obey the Son, proving that his belief was just for *his own security*. He wanted to know what he had to do to have eternal life, but it was just for his own security, not because he was willing to do the Father’s will. All he wanted to do was go to heaven when he died. Yahshua knew his motive (Jn 2:25). The rich young ruler’s belief was self-motivated — he wanted a savior but not a lord. But at least he was honest, “I am my own lord.” A lord tells you what to do and when to do it. A lord is a master and an owner. No longer could the servant hold on to what he originally had, but must entrust his whole life and possessions to the one who was a greater king than himself. Mk 10:28-30 explains verse 21.

The rich young ruler didn’t trust the greater king (Lk 14:31-33). You have to see Him coming and surrender, give everything up. I thought we could put that in clear words and explain it to people. That is how a lot of people are now. I was a Christian and I know what I am talking about.

Obadiah – They don’t want to go to death, but they don’t want to be saved from what causes them to go there.

Aharon – The whole Christian thing is getting forgiveness without fulfilling the purpose of forgiveness, which is to be reconnected to the purpose man was made for. They want forgiveness, but they don’t want Him.

That is right, that’s good.

Nahaliel – I thought about that thing that our Father said to Abraham, “Now I know.” I have wondered about that, “Could He not see Abraham’s heart?” But Abraham was tested and every man has to be tested. There comes a time when possessions prove you. He asked for his absolute loyalty there and the rich young ruler wasn’t ready to give it.

Jn 8:39 – They said, “We are Abraham’s offspring.” But He said, “You’re not either, for you’re not doing what Abraham did. You do the works of your father!” (verse 44). Jms 2:21-24 – Abraham believed way back there, but his faith was tested and proven, just as ours must be.