

The Rich Young Ruler
Matthew 19:16-22

Law to the Proud & Grace to the Humble (James 4:6; cf. Prov. 3:34; Matt. 23:12; 1 Peter 5:5; Rom. 3:19-20; cf. Gal. 3:24-26)

I. Jesus' First Test:

- a. Who was this man?
 - i. "**man ran up to Him and knelt before Him**" (Mark 10:17)
 - ii. "**a ruler**" (Luke 18:18)
 - iii. **behold** = *ἰδού* (iōū) = "look!, suddenly, listen, pay attention"
 - iv. "**young man**"
 - v. "**owned much property**" & "**he was extremely rich**" (Luke 18:23)
- b. **Teacher** = genuine respect
- c. **what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?**
 - i. He knew he didn't have eternal life (cf. Mark 9:43-45, 47; 1 John 5:11, 20)
 - ii. But he was trapped in a false works-based religion
- d. **Why are you asking Me about what is good?**
 - i. To show that God's standard is Divine Perfection (cf. Ps. 106:1; 118:1, 29; 1 Chron. 16:34; 2 Chron. 5:13;)
 - ii. And that Jesus **is the only One who is good**
- e. **The Test** = **keep the commandments** (cf. Lev. 18:5; Deut. 30:15-20; Matt. 5:48; James 2:10)

II. Jesus' Second Test:

- a. "**Which ones?**" = complete failure of the test (cf. Matt. 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 10:25-37)
- b. **The Test** = Second half of the Decalogue and the second of the Greatest Commandments (cf. Ex. 20:12-16; Deut. 5:16-20; Lev. 19:18; cf. John 6:28-29; Matt. 22:39; Rom. 13:8-10; Gal. 5:14; James 2:8)

III. Jesus' Final Test:

- a. **All these things I have kept** = complete failure of the test (cf. Phil. 3:6; Matt. 5-7)
- b. **what am I still lacking?** (cf. Rom. 1:18-20)
- c. **The Test** = *go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me*
 - i. "²¹ ...**Jesus felt a love for him...**" (Mark 10:21)
 1. Tough love is still love!
 - ii. Selling all your possessions is NOT a universal standard for salvation; but giving up your sin is! (cf. Matt. 6:24)
- d. **you will have treasure in heaven** (cf. Matt. 6:19-21; 13:44-46)
- e. "²² **But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.**" = complete failure of the test (cf. (cf. Matt. 3:2; 4:17; Luke 19:1-10; Acts 2:38; 26:20; 2 Pet. 3:9)