Notes of YF message on 3 Oct 2026 – "Do Not Go Away from Jesus Sorrowful"
Text: Matthew 19:16-22 Memory Verse: John 12:25 Speaker: Rev Dr Jose Lagapa
Notetaker: Wong En-Xi

Many think that they can enter heaven based on their good works. They do their quiet time, give tithe, donate to charities, and try to be "good" people. They are not interested in God's Will. They simply do what they think is pleasing to God, and expect Him to accept their good works. Such people will go away from Jesus sorrowful. Today, there are many such people in mega churches heading towards hell.

In Matthew 19:16-22, a man came face-to-face with God, but he turned away from Him. He heard God's voice, and was told what to do, but he chose not to listen, and he rejected God's offer.

We have heard God's voice many times, but if we do not act on it we will leave sorrowful. We cannot undo or redo what we have already done in our life, so we must come to God now. Pray that we will all enter God's eternal heaven.

The man came to Jesus with a purpose: he wanted to know how to get eternal life. He had done many good things in his life, and wanted to know what else he could do to contribute to his salvation. To him, Jesus was not his Saviour but was simply a teacher or master who could give good things. He wanted to know the way to get eternal life, but not the Lord's way. Instead of asking what God wanted him to do, he wanted to know what he could do for God. He emphasised this by stating how he had *"kept"* (Matt 19:20, i.e. meticulously), and attentively watched, himself to obey the commandments perfectly from a young age.

Any good thing we have done are but *"filthy rags"* (Isa 64:6) before God. When we come to God, we have to acknowledge we have nothing to offer. Instead, it is in our believing in and receiving of Jesus Christ that we are saved. Beyond knowing, we must agree with what God says. Thereafter, we must believe in order to have conviction and conversion. When we believe in Him, we receive Christ's righteousness which He had earned for us in His active obedience. Our sins are forgiven because of His passive obedience in dying on the cross. When we truly receive Jesus, our lives will be transformed. In Jesus we can do good works as the fruit of our salvation. Our good works are not the source of our salvation.

This *"young man"* (Matt 19:22) was a proud man who loved his earthly possessions. He wanted to live forever in this world, not in God's eternal place. He did not truly want eternal life.

If you truly believe in God, leave everything you have and make God your priority. Love Him with all your soul, mind and strength, and be ready to drop everything to obey God. Do not give yourself conditions or restrictions in obeying God. Do not put Him off for later. What are you holding onto aside from, and above, God? Do you truly know that God has prepared a place for us? Or do you think you must enjoy life first before you can follow God? God is more than a Master or Teacher. He is our sovereign Lord and Saviour. He is calling you to cut off anything that hinders you from coming to Him.

"Only one life, 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last." (C.T. Studd)

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