

So Close, But Lost

(Matthew 19:16-22)

- Introduction:
1. It is possible to be almost right or perfect, but still be wrong or lost.
 2. One action or one word can destroy hours of good.
 3. Let's examine someone who was so close to salvation, but did not obtain it.

I. He Came To The Right Person

- A. (Matthew 19:16).
- B. (John 14:6).
- C. (2 Peter 2:1).
- D. (John 6:68).

II. He Asked The Right Question

- A. (Matthew 19:16,20).
- B. There is no greater question that could be asked.
- C. He acknowledged there was something he must do.

III. He Received The Right Answer

- A. (Matthew 19:17-19, 21).
- B. Salvation requires both the inward and the outward.
- C. We must obey, but our obedience must be from the heart.
- D. (Romans 6:17).

IV. He Made The Wrong Decision

- A. (Matthew 19:22-26).
- B. He apparently loved his riches more than God, which is idolatry and cannot be tolerated.
- C. (Matthew 6:33).

- Conclusion:
1. It is sad to see this story played out.
 - a. In Mark 10:17 – this rich, young ruler came running to Jesus.
 - b. In Matthew 19:22 – this rich, young ruler goes away sorrowful.
 2. Friends, God will not change his terms of pardon.
 3. If you want salvation, you must accept his terms, if not you like the rich, young ruler will go away sorrowful only to await the judgment.
 4. Why don't you obey God today, accept his grace, and enjoy the blessings of salvation?