

THE RICH YOUNG MAN AND JESUS

By Bill Pugh

If there was such a publication as the Jerusalem Times, you could picture the wealthy young man eagerly following the investment page daily. Maybe buying or selling shares as the market changed.

He was pleased with his investments so far, and his good behaviour. But what about Jesus teaching about eternal life? Can I learn that too. I have

kept the commandments. What more need I do? Jesus gave him the answer. "If you wish to be perfect, go sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

How did he respond? When the young man heard this he went away grieving, for he had many possessions. For him, the cost of discipleship was too high.

Reflection:

It's a hard lesson. Keeping the commandments, going to church every Sunday, having fellowship, Bible study and supporting mission are Christian duties. But not adding up to a score to reach heaven? Eternal life is God's gift, the reward of grace, a free and undeserved gift. The important thing is the direction of our life each day as disciples. Any reward is ours by grace.

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