

Intro: A man comes running up to Jesus one day and asks him the single most important question of all time!
"Good teacher, What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

People have been asking this question since the beginning of time!

- What do I need to do to prepare for what comes after this life!
- Sometimes it get lost in the pressure, the struggle and the busyness of everyday living
- But when we pause to reflect, everyone has the same question: What comes next...and how do I get ready!

Here is the amazing part. When you read the story, Jesus gives him an answer!

He doesn't say, Well, no one knows...I'm not sure...Or, I think:

Boom..he answers the question straight out!

And then...something even MORE amazing happens. The guy gets his answer, evidently thinks about it for a second
Says..Hmmm..NO THANKS...AND HE WALKS AWAY!!!

Today I want to talk with you about how to love people that are spiritually half-hearted.
What I mean by that is; they have some interest in spiritual things...but it only goes so far!
Read the account with me and let's look at a couple of important spiritual insights.

Mark 10:17-27

Page 716

1. The Characteristics Of The Spiritually Half-Hearted.

Vs 17-20

3 Positive Elements

- Spiritual Interest: He sought Jesus out...And He was Concerned about spiritual things John 6:44
Joh 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him..."
- Spiritual Enthusiasm: He came running up to Jesus...fell on his knees!
Good teacher: Recognizes Jesus as at least a spiritual teacher...or prophet...rabbi
- Right Spiritual direction: He comes to Jesus:
Joh 14:6 "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

This young man has a LOT going for Him! He is in the right place, with the right person, asking right questions!
Some people NEVER get this far! They allow the busyness of everyday life to drown out the voice of God calling them
They get so tied up and caught up and captured by THIS life...that they give no thought whatsoever to the next!
No so with this young man. He is seeking

3 Negative Elements

- Pride/Lack of Humility: Keep the commandments: "I have been doing that since I was a child!" (Vs 20) REALLY?
Jesus lists a couple...but it is a common way of speaking when some parts are representative of the whole: REALLY?
So ever since you were a child...you have been keeping the law...ALL OF THE LAW?
1Peter 5:5 "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Prov 3:34
- Lack Of Self Awareness: He REALLY seems to believe that he has sufficiently kept the law
It is one thing when someone is aware of their failures and shortcomings: Work with that
But when they are so lacking in Self Awareness...that they really don't see limitations!
Pr 16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall."
Totally out of synch with what his life is REALLY like!
- Lacks 100% Commitment: He has some...But look..this should speak to us all
He thinks he can come to God on HIS terms!
He will offer God what He is willing to offer...and that will be enough!

Appl: This is a perfect description of many of the people in our world today...
Sometimes it describes us... We all want to come to God on our terms...and define for ourselves what is acceptable
We all sometimes don't see ourselves as we really are, instead we see what we want to see
We all offer what we think of as "enough" ... and assume that God will be satisfied with what we offer

Because of that I think, Jesus speaks a message that is VERY CLEAR to this young man...and to US!

2. Jesus Message To The Spiritually Half-Hearted.

Vs 21

- Understand God's desire: God wants to be in relationship with us!
2Pe 3:9 "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."
- Understand God's requirement: 100% surrender and commitment! 99% isn't good enough!
He highlights that truth by telling this young man one simple thing. But it strikes at the heart of what he holds back!
He takes direct aim at the one thing this young man is unwilling to surrender to God
Now, it is different for each of us: For some: Family; Money; Career; Children; Position; Place

But what Jesus does is, he takes dead aim at the one thing this man is unwilling to surrender!
And he says: Ok, this is what it is going to take for YOU to put God first.

- **Understand Intent:** All Jesus is doing is pointing out where this man is self deluded!
It isn't about the money! No where else in the bible does Jesus tell someone this.
It is all about surrender and commitment and TRULY living for God w/o reservation or hesitation
So Jesus says: Ok...You have been keeping the commandments since you were a child, right?
So, lets try these on for size...Go sell everything and give to the poor because...Commandments are:
Commandants: Ex 20:3 "*You shall have no other god's before me!*"
 Deut 6:5 "*Love the Lord Your God with all your heart soul mind and strength.*"
 Lev 19:18 "*Love your neighbor as yourself!*"
That one act of obedience highlights the state of his heart!
Jesus with one small verse...one small statement...exposes the reality of this mans heart
(Notice btw...all he is asking him to do is what the 12 have already done...left everything and followed Him!

Applic: Listen, that requirement has not changed. God is still looking for those that are willing to surrender everything
And follow Jesus!

What about you? What is it that Jesus would call you to surrender to him today?

Whatever it is, I encourage you...don't hold back...don't be a half-hearted follower...Good intent...Poor commitment
Re 3:16 "*So, because you are lukewarm-- neither hot nor cold-- I am about to spit you out of my mouth.*"

3. Jesus Heart For The Spiritually Half-Hearted: Vs 21ff

- Vs 21: **Jesus Loved Him:** Jesus doesn't love us any less because we aren't where we are supposed to be!
 We should take a lesson from that.
 Often times when we are spiritually passionate and on fire, we look down...disgust
 Jesus doesn't do that: He LOVED HIM! John 3:16
 Beholding: *To look at intently; to discern clearly!* To love: To agape Him! Love Unconditionally
- **Jesus Was Unwilling To Accept Second Place in His heart**
Vs 21: One thing you lack: Lit = *One piece you are missing to have it all together...to be complete, get it right*
Jesus is like: You are SO CLOSE! You almost have it right...but listen to me: Almost isn't ENOUGH!
You HAVE to get this right! You can't settle for close enough. God will never take second place
Love the Lord your God with ALL your heart and ALL your soul and ALL your strength!
- Jesus spoke an uncompromising message of truth
Go, sell it all...give it away...and come and follow me!
All too often we want to say...it's ok...Just give Him what you can
God will accept it...he will settle, he is so loving, so kind, so good, so gracious...he'll take what you want to offer
De 4:24 "*For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.*"
- Jesus was willing to let him walk away!
You cannot miss this part of the story! Jesus doesn't do what we do: We say, come back, its ok, Didn't mean it!
Jesus let him walk away. And understand...he is walking into a Christ less eternity.
He is walking away from the ONLY name under heaven by which men MUST BE SAVED
Without Jesus...there is NO HOPE of eternal life.
The question has been asked....and answered....and the answer rejected...And Jesus lets him Go!
He will not compromise on what is necessary to be a part of His kingdom

CONCL: Two Different Applications:

- If You are seeking Him
Interest, Enthusiasm and Direction aren't enough
God Demands 100%
You must walk with Him...Follow Him...or Walk away... Half hearted is not an option
He loves you and wants to be in relationship with you...but understand...it comes on his terms
- If you are talking with someone that is half hearted, Follow the model Jesus gives us here
Don't compromise: Don't you say...its' ok...Just give him what you are willing to
Do call them to commitment...and allow God to convict and draw them to himself