

**"THE RICH YOUNG RULER"****Illustration**

1. Do you have a wish to follow Christ?
2. The Bible urges us to do so
3. But it gives us advice and warning as to how to follow Christ

**1. A VERY PROMISING QUESTION**

- 1) v.17: The ideal and perfect question
- 2) The man who asks it is so promising:
  - (i) rich: able to help spread the gospel
  - (ii) young: he had his life ahead of him
  - (iii) ruler: influential with very many
  - (iv) zealous: running to Christ
  - (v) reverent: kneeling down
  - (vi) respectful: "Good Master"

**OBSERVE**: He was surely the ideal candidate to be a disciple, or even almost an apostle!
- 3) The question is one we all need to ask. It is the question of all questions.  
**APPLICATION**: Have you gone to Christ on your knees with this question?

**2. CHRIST'S CHALLENGING DEMANDS**

- 1) v.18: We need to understand these words
- 2) v.19: Christ preaches:
  - (i) NOT the gospel, but
  - (ii) Law to this man
- 3) Why did Christ do this?
  - (i) He saw this man's heart
  - (ii) the young man was not broken

**PSALM****119: 1 – 8****119: 35 – 40****119: 113 - 120**

- (iii) he had no conviction of sin (v.20)
- (iv) the Moral Law convicts us of sin

- 4) We are told (v.21) Christ loved him. Explain.
- 5) The challenge which Christ gives him (v.21):
  - (i) he lacks one vital thing
  - (ii) his money is his god
  - (iii) he must take up the cross. Explain
  - (iv) he must follow Christ
- 6) Sadly, the man could not do so (v.22):
  - (i) he would not part with his wealth
  - (ii) so he could not be Christ's disciple

**APPLICATION**: We cannot serve God and Mammon

**3. VITAL LESSONS FOR US ALL TO LEARN**

- 1) We must not hide from the people the cross which every Christian must bear:
  - (i) God must have first place in life
  - (ii) To love anything else is idolatry
  - (iii) We must forsake all to get heaven

**APPLICATION**: Is this your problem?
- 2) It is no kindness to soften the gospel:
  - (i) Christ would not have him deceived
  - (ii) a false Christian is doubly lost
  - (iii) "Peace, peace" when there is no peace
  - (iv) To hell with his eyes shut

**OBSERVE**: No preacher must deceive people: "pop" gospels abound today.  
**APPLICATION**: Will you break with the world?

**CONCLUSION**

1. See how impossible it is: v.25
2. See what true believers have: v.29-30
3. If you want to be first, make yourself last.