

HOW TO OBTAIN ETERNAL LIFE  
(Matthew 19:16-22)

- I. An IMPORTANT Question (Matt. 19:16)
  - A. The questioner was WEALTHY (v. 22), YOUNG (v. 20), and INFLUENTIAL (Lk. 18:18)
  - B. His concern was URGENT and SINCERE (Mk. 10:17)
  - C. He desired to “obtain ETERNAL LIFE”
    1. He knew he NEEDED it
    2. He came to JESUS to FIND it
- II. A SURPRISING Response (Matt. 19:17-19)
  - A. Jesus asked “Why ask ME what is GOOD?,” adding, “There is only ONE who is GOOD”
  - B. Jesus said, “KEEP the COMMANDMENTS”
    1. The man asked for CLARIFICATION
    2. Jesus listed commandments SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE, and FIVE, and added “love your NEIGHBOR as YOURSELF (Exod. 5:20; Lev. 19:18)
- III. An INSIGHTFUL Admission (Matt. 19:20)
  - A. The man CLAIMED to have KEPT “all these things”

- B. He admitted he was “STILL LACKING”
  - 1. The Law is not a GOAL for man’s ACHIEVEMENT
  - 2. It is a PICTURE of God’s PERFECTION

IV. A CHALLENGING Instruction (Matt. 19:21)

- A. Jesus acknowledged the man was still INCOMPLETE
- B. He told Him to PRIORITIZE having treasure in HEAVEN
  - 1. He must SELL his POSSESSIONS
  - 2. He must GIVE the proceeds to the POOR
  - 3. He must COMMIT himself to FOLLOWING Jesus

V. A TRAGIC Conclusion (Matt. 19:22)

- A. He considered his PROPERTY more VALUABLE than ETERNAL LIFE
- B. Stricken with GRIEF, the man LEFT
  - 1. He GRIEVED the COMMITMENT required
  - 2. He REFUSED to FOLLOW Jesus
- C. Salvation requires ADMITTING one’s GUILT
  - 1. One must FORSAKE SELF
  - 2. One must FOLLOW CHRIST (cf. 16:24-26)