

## Would I Give All? Mark 10:17-22 Charlie Brackett

When a young man asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life, He said, "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'"

The commands of which Jesus reminded him are six of the ten commandments given to Moses, that portion of the ten which deals specifically with how we treat our neighbors. Jesus changed their natural order somewhat, though we are not told why. And, rather than refer directly to the tenth, 'Do not covet,' He said 'Do not defraud.'

To covet is to earnestly desire or lust after something. Coveting leads to defrauding. The desire to have someone else's property often results in the use of deceitful, underhanded means of acquiring them. Therefore, defrauding another to gain what he has is the evil fruit of coveting.

Though they had only met, Jesus knew this young man's life. He knew what was in his heart. Even before the man gave answer as to his relationship to the law, Jesus knew the point in which he was guilty. He coveted. Knowing that the young man before Him had a great many material possessions, and his desire burned intensely for them, I believe Jesus chose the word 'defraud' rather than 'covet,' to shift attention, for the moment, from the point of sin in the man's life.

Notice how the young ruler responded to the Lord's answer. Believing himself obedient in all the commands mentioned, he said, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth." Verse 21 says, "Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him." Jesus loves all those who seek eternal life, especially those among the young, and those who are rich. He loved him. And because of that love, the Lord must bring the young man to the real test of his belief. Would he opt for serving the Lord? Or would he hold on selfishly to the wealth of this world? Jesus must put to him the question which would determine the depth of his faith. How strong was his desire for eternal life? How would he answer?

From out of His love Jesus said, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." Our text says, the young man was sad at this word, and he went away sorrowful for he had great possessions. As our hearts become heavy for the plight of this young man, honesty demands that we ask ourselves the same question he faced. Would I give all for a heavenly home?