

## Good Teacher

Mark 10:17-18  
Charlie Brackett

As Jesus walked on the road, a man ran up to Him, knelt before Him and asked, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" From Matthew and Luke's accounts we learn that this man was a rich, young ruler. He ran because of his zeal for learning about eternal life, and he knelt out of respect for Jesus, both as a man and as a teacher.

Before answering him, Jesus called attention to his salutation. He asked, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God." The point of Christ's remark turns on the word "good." The young man, no doubt, used it as the highest form of compliment. It showed his regard for Jesus as a man of impeccable morals, a man whose teaching was worthy of respect and heed. But, referring to the Son of God as "Good Teacher" revealed the young man's belief that Jesus was nothing more than a man.

"Why do you call Me good?" asked the Lord. "No one is good but One, that is, God." Jesus was not denying His goodness, nor His divinity. On the contrary, he was focusing the young man's attention on his failure to understand the true nature of His goodness. Jesus was, in fact, good. Not because He was a moral and learned man, but because He was God. No one is truly good, but God. The young man needed that lesson. He came to One he thought to be only a man seeking to know the answer to a question only God can provide. Before hearing the answer to his question, he needed to know that he spoke with the Son of God.

Many today make the same unfortunate mistake as this young man. One form of the mistake is expressed by those who see Jesus as only a great man in history. They will not recognize Him as more than a good man. My friend, such a position is untenable. Jesus claimed true goodness. He claimed to be God. If He is not what He claimed to be, He is a liar and a fraud. Such is not the stuff of which good men are made. He cannot be only a good man.

Another way in which some today make the mistake of this young ruler is by seeking answers of men which only God can provide. Answers regarding salvation and eternity are not man's to give. Only God knows what eternity holds. Only God offers a means of salvation from this sinful world. No one comes to the Father but by Jesus Christ (John 14:6). Those who earnestly desire to inherit eternal life will seek answers in the word of God, not in men. Let's stop listening to the conflicting instructions of men. Let's let the Lord tell us through His word, the Bible, what to do to be saved.