

## Sacrifice

Mark 10:21, 22  
Charlie Brackett

The story we have been considering is of a rich man who decided his material possessions were worth more than eternal life. Jesus said to him, "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." The rich man did not think long about his choice. He went away sorrowful because he was unwilling to give up his position in worldly goods.

Let me challenge you to put yourself in his shoes. Sure you can! Oh, I understand. We don't think of ourselves as rich, but we are. Actually, whatever our position economically, we all face the decision he faced. No, Jesus has not commanded us to sell all we have and give to the poor. No, He has not asked us to leave our homes and go traipsing across the countryside without a place to rest our heads as He and His apostles did. No, not literally. But He does call us to the same level of sacrifice as this rich, young ruler.

Do you remember our study back in chapter nine? Jesus said, "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off." "If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off." "And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire - " Go back and reread Mark 9:42-48. What is He saying? The same thing He said to the rich young ruler. You must be willing to sacrifice anything in your life that stands between you and your service to the Master. Nothing in this life is of greater value than eternal life in heaven.

What stood between the rich, young ruler and salvation was his wealth. He wasn't willing to give it up. You may not have his wealth, but what is it in this life that you count dearest? Is it your job, your good looks, or your leisure time? More likely it is your husband or wife, or your children, or maybe your mother or father. What *is* the most important thing to you in this life? Being respected by friends? Having the freedom to do your own thing? What is it? A neat and tidy house? Your new sports car? The envy of your neighbors? Whatever it is, you must be willing to give it up for the Savior. Sacrifice. That's what being a disciple of Jesus Christ is about.

He said, "Come, take up the cross, and follow Me." There is no possible way to make that trip and carry that cross while lugging along all of this world's baggage.