***Mark 10:17-22 Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” 18 So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. 19 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.’ ” 20 And he answered and said to Him, “Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.” 21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “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.” 22 But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.***

This morning, we’re with Jesus. There is no better place to be than walking down the road with our Savior. Imagine yourself there, feeling the heat, dust puffing up around our sandals with each step we take. Jesus just got through saying*, “Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.”* And then we see a rich, young ruler come running and kneels. This is the scene we find ourselves in this morning. Scriptures weren’t meant to just be read – they’re meant to be experienced, breathed, lived. Are we living the scriptures this morning? I hope so. I hope so.

Verse 17 - *Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”* What shall I do? We know a few things about this young man – he holds an important position, he’s wealthy, he’s young, he has many possessions – and he’s heard of something he wants to add to his collection. He sees eternal life as another trophy to add to the case. Something to have, not someone to be. Serving the Self and not the Spirit.

V 18 & 19 - *So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. 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.’*Talk about a floater pitch over the sweet spot of the plate. A question begging to be slapped out of the ballpark. Jesus was saying, “Don’t you recognize Me child? Do you see Me standing right here in front of you?” It makes my soul ache. Many today believe Jesus to be a good teacher. Jesus asks, “Do you know Who I Am?” You must know Who I Am. It’s not the deeds we do, but the Name we claim that leads to eternal life. Right works flow from the Name.

Verse 20 - *And he answered and said to Him, “Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.”* The pitch is floating, floating, the crowd is waiting with bated breath – the rich young ruler swings – it’s a miss! You see this was his moment to say, “I call You good because You are Jesus, God incarnate, the Son of the Living God! You are the Alpha and the Omega come to earth. You are the I Am. I am imperfect, no hope of keeping the Law. You are my Hope. You are God!”

Instead, he responds, “I’ve perfectly kept the Law.” We know this isn’t true. He’s born false witness. He believes himself good enough… A rule keeper, not a soul seer. What little few things must I do beyond the wonderfulness that I already am? Because I am quite wonderful after all. Romans 3:23 says, *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*. Jesus came to fulfill the Law and serve as payment for our sin. None of us are Quite Wonderful and we mustn’t believe we are.

Verse 21 - *Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “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.”*Jesus looked at him intently - loved him. He has missed the mark, fallen short and Jesus loved him anyway. “You don’t know Me yet child, but I love you.” Jesus saw what was holding him back from full submission. Money, things, stuff, idol worship, status. Money is not the root of all evil. The love of money is the root of all evil. At the time of Jesus, many were destitute, widows starving, orphans homeless, rulers cheating the people. One thing you lack – Compassion. Be soul seer, not a rule keeper. You haven’t kept the Law young man, because you see suffering and do nothing about it.

Jesus tells us – Take up the cross and follow Me. *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* How do we take up the cross and surrender our all? Love, Compassion. Surrender that which is holding you back. We can give all the money we want, do all the great deeds for people to see, say all the right words and never lay a single finger on the Cross of Jesus Christ. The answer is not in right works, but in right Worship. Why do you call Me good? Who do you say that I am?

Verse 22 *But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.* Many go away sorrowful because sacrifice, service, and selflessness is too much for Jesus to ask. *Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.* If we can’t name the last sacrifice we made, perhaps we have no cross in our hand at all. That is a reason to be sorrowful, even unto wrenching sobs, for the betrayal we’ve been to the Jesus we know.