

When Good Isn't Enough

As Christian educators, we often strive to do what's right (e.g., teach with excellence, serve faithfully, care deeply for those entrusted to us). However, even with our best efforts, there can be moments when we feel something is still missing. Jesus addresses this matter in the Bible. Let's see what He has to say.

Read [Matthew 19:16-22](#).

Jesus had been busy traveling, healing, answering questions, and blessing children when He was approached by a young rich man. This was a man whom most would think had everything anyone could possibly want. However, he knew in the depths of his being that something was missing. ***What was missing? Why do you think he asked Jesus this question?***

Jesus immediately responded with a rhetorical question, ***“Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only One who is good.”*** Jesus did not answer his question directly. I can imagine the man may have felt a little awkward, perhaps even unsettled. ***What do you think Jesus was trying to communicate?***

This simple statement is where abundant life begins. This young man had it all wrong. He thought eternal life (abundant life) was about something he needed to do. Instead, Jesus needed him to understand that true abundance was not about WHAT we have but WHO we have. Spiritual abundance is found in a person, the only One who is good, Christ Himself. If we think one more good deed will get us closer to God, we will experience the same emptiness this young man felt.

Jesus didn't leave the young man hanging, though. He began by emphasizing the importance of keeping God's Holy law, which the young man assured Jesus he had done. However, the young man knew this still wasn't enough; otherwise, he never would have asked, ***“What do I still lack?”*** ***Have you ever been in a situation where you felt you should have more joy, peace, or satisfaction than you possessed? What was the circumstance?***

Could it be that you were seeking abundance in deeds or possessions instead of the presence and person of Jesus Christ? Could God be asking you to rethink what is really important like he did this rich young ruler? ***“If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”*** In other words, what is more important to you than Me? Are you willing to give that up to receive the abundant life that exceeds anything you can imagine? Jesus invites us to something far better.

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” (John 17:3)

Abundant life is eternal life. It is a life that begins the moment we come to Christ, and it grows as we know Him more deeply. Like the rich young ruler, we may find ourselves asking, ***“What do I still lack?”*** The answer isn't found in doing more. It is realized in drawing closer to the One who is good. When we release our grip on what we think we need and follow Jesus fully, we discover that His presence is the greatest treasure of all. Abundance begins there.

Lord, thank You for reminding me that true goodness and abundance are found only in You. Help me to lay down anything that keeps me from following You completely. Teach me to rest in Your presence alone. May my life—and my work as an educator—reflect the joy and peace that come from walking closely with You. In Jesus' name, amen.

- For related blog: <https://www.victoriouseducator.com/post/when-help-goes-unreceived-embracing-the-abundant-life-jesus-offers>
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