

Catechism Story 15

*The Ninth and Tenth Commandments
Memory Verse and Catechism Prayers from Congregation at Prayer*

BIBLE STORY: THE RICH YOUNG RULER

Mark 10:17-27

Central Thoughts

- A covetous person loves himself and his own works, wealth, and possessions ahead of his love for God or his neighbor.
- All people are sinners; God alone is good.
- Jesus uses the Ten Commandments, God's Law, to call us to repentance and faith in Christ.
- It is impossible for a sinner to bring himself to faith in Christ.
- Faith in Christ is a miracle of God.

Discussion Questions

What question did the rich young man ask Jesus?

What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

What does his question teach us about what he believed?

He believed that he could earn his salvation by his works.

For whose benefit did the young man want to do his works?

For his own benefit.

How had the young man addressed Jesus?

He called Him, "Good teacher."

How does Jesus use the young man's words to teach him that everyone is a sinner?

Jesus said, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but One, that is God."

Who is Jesus?

He is the sinless Son of God, the only One who is truly good.

What commandments does Jesus list for the young man?

The second table of the Law: Do not commit adultery (6th), Do not murder (5th), Do not steal (7th), Do not bear false witness (8th) Do not defraud (9th/10th), and Honor your father and your mother (4th).

What do the commandments under the Second Table of the Law call us to do?

To love our neighbor as ourselves.

What did the young man say about his obedience to these commandments?

He believed that he had kept them all since his youth.

Why was this young man trying to keep the law?

He was trying to keep the law for his own benefit rather than out of love for others.

Why did Jesus direct him to the Ten Commandments?

He wanted to show the young man his sin and his need for a Savior.

How many things did Jesus say the young man lacked?

Only one.

Does this mean that the young man had kept the Ten Commandments?

No. He had broken them all because even when he attempted to keep the Ten Commandments, he was doing so for his own benefit rather than for his neighbor's benefit not out of love for God and his neighbor.

Why did Jesus tell the young man to sell whatever he had and give it away to the poor?

He was calling him to repentance. He was calling him away from trusting in the god of his own works and his own wealth to trusting in Christ.

Who was the One the young man lacked?

He lacked Jesus who alone is good because He is the Savior of sinners.

Rather than trusting in himself and his own works, who did Jesus say the young man should follow?

He called the young man to follow Him.

What does it mean to follow Jesus?

It means to trust in Him for our salvation.

How did Jesus keep all the Ten Commandments?

He loved God, His Father, with all His heart, soul, mind, and strength; and He loved all of us more than He loved Himself. Jesus kept the Law, not for His own benefit, but for our salvation when He went to the cross in love for His Father and for us.

Why did the young man go away sad?

He did not want to let go of the idol of his own wealth.

Why is it hard for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of heaven?

They have made a god out of their own riches and works, and they do not want to turn away from this idol.

How does Jesus teach us that it is impossible for someone who trusts in his riches to bring himself to faith in Jesus?

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

How does Jesus answer the question about who can be saved?

With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.

What does this teach us about repentance and faith in Christ?

Only God can bring us to repentance and faith in Christ.

Meditation on the Bible Story

The Ninth and Tenth Commandments condemn covetousness. Covetousness always turns a person inward in self-centeredness, selfishness, and pride. To love, desire, and insist upon things that God has not given us and does not want us to have will not allow us to love God or our neighbor as the Law demands. Covetousness trusts in its own works and accomplishments and never wants to let go of money or possessions. The covetous heart always “schemes to get his neighbor’s inheritance or house” or tries to “entice or force away a neighbor’s wife, workers, or animals.” The rich young man only thought of doing good so that he could gain what he wanted.

Jesus is the only One who is truly good. In Jesus there is no covetousness. He only desires to do His Father’s will and to serve us in love. He is the Son of God who became man for us. He kept the Ten Commandments perfectly by loving His heavenly Father with all His heart, soul, mind, and strength. He let go of everything out of love for His Father and out of love for us. He did not die for His own benefit, but for ours. He alone is good because He alone has kept the Law perfectly for us. We are saved through faith in Jesus. He is our righteousness, life, and salvation. We are called by God’s Word to repentance and faith in Him. The rich young man really only lacked One thing: Jesus! Jesus called him to let go of all his wealth and follow Him. To trust in our own works or wealth or anything else are false gods. All false gods teach us to love only ourselves and turn us away from God and our neighbor. Faith in Christ teaches us to love our neighbor as Jesus has loved us. The rich young man went away sad because he had great possessions, but Jesus planted the seed of the Word in his heart that it might produce the miracle of faith. It is impossible for us to bring ourselves to faith in Christ. Faith is a miracle. The Holy Spirit uses the Law to show us our sin and call us to repentance. By the Gospel the Holy Spirit calls us to faith in Jesus and covers our sins with forgiveness. By God’s Word, the Holy Spirit does what is impossible for us: He calls us to trust in Jesus and enables us to let go of every false god and follow Him.

Prayer on the Bible Story

Lord Jesus, You alone are good because You loved the Father with all Your heart and You loved us enough to die for our sins upon the cross. Save us from trusting in our own works, money, or possessions. Create the miracle of faith in our hearts so that we deny ourselves and follow only You. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.



The Rich Young Ruler

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