

YOU LACK ONE THING

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:

YOU LACK ONE THING

Bible Text: Mark 10:17-22, Matthew 19:16-22, Luke 18:18-23

Prayer

Our dear Father, we have come humbly before You, we thank You for this great opportunity, and we ask that You'd empty us of self and fill us up with You as we eat from the table of Your word today in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

Introduction

I welcome everyone in the name of the Lord. Before we commence tonight's study, I would like to say one or two things. I want to encourage us to try as much as possible to align ourselves with the Word of God. It would not be good enough to be in this group, hear messages such as these, and still miss heaven because of our negligence and carelessness. I believe that at this stage, we all understand that making heaven is a very serious matter. It requires total submission and obedience to the will of Christ.

It is not about what is convenient for us; what matters is what we must do to please Christ. Our reward in heaven will be great if we endure faithfully to the end. This is a word for someone here tonight: Do not get tired. Do not be weary. Do not lose hope. What you are going through because of Christ is only for a season. Though sorrow may endure for a night, joy comes in the morning. Therefore, keep holding on to Christ. Keep trusting Him. Keep obeying His Word, even when it is difficult. Do not allow temporary challenges to make you compromise your faith or turn away from the Lord. Above all, make sure that you do away with sin as much as Christ gives you grace to overcome it. Do not deliberately hold on to anything that can hinder you from making heaven. Let us examine ourselves, submit completely to

Christ, and continually ask Him for grace to live a holy and righteous life. May the Lord strengthen us, keep us faithful to the end, and help us all to make heaven, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Bible Text: Mark 10:17-22, Matthew 19:16-22, Luke 18:18-23

Mark 10:17-22 KJV

And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? [18] And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. [19] Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. [20] And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. [21] Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. [22] And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

Matthew 19:16-22 KJV

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? [17] And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. [18] He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, [19] Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. [20] The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? [21] Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come

and follow me. [22] But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

Luke 18:18-23 KJV

And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? [19] And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God. [20] Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. [21] And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. [22] Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. [23] And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.

Study

The story of the rich young ruler is one that calls for a sober reflection. The Lord was going out on the road when he came running. He was not even walking majestically. He ran to Jesus, not minding how rich he was, and knelt before the Lord. This is a mark of submission, an act of humility. Having gotten the Lord's attention, he asked Him a very important question. The question every sensible person on earth would ask, because it is sure that we will all spend eternity, whether we believe it or not, does not matter.

A young rich ruler, whom God had helped and who had been walking with God since he was a boy, came to Jesus. “And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” — **Mark 10:17 KJV**. It is surprising that he asked what he could do to inherit eternal life, that is, to partake of eternal salvation in the Messiah's kingdom. This is a

sign that he already had a heart that genuinely sought God, and he was aware that there was more to life than just the material things of this world. Those who truly encounter God don't ask what God can do for them but what they can do for Him. This was the case when Peter preached to the multitude in Acts chapter 2. On the day of Pentecost, they were pricked in their hearts, and they asked what they must do to escape eternal condemnation and gain eternal life. **“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?” — Acts 2:37 KJV.** Peter went ahead to tell them that they must believe on Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God, and repent from their sins. **“Then Peter said unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...” — Acts 2:38 KJV**

When the rich young man asked that question, the Lord told him that he knew the commandments, quoting the commandments God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai, and one after the other. **“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. Thou shalt not kill. Neither shalt thou commit adultery. Neither shalt thou steal. Neither shalt thou bear false witness against thy neighbour.” — Exodus 20:12–16 KJV.** Making it clear to him that keeping of God's command is essential if one must enter into the kingdom of God. The amazing part of it was that the man replied to Him that he had been keeping all these things carefully right from his boyhood.

We must note some things here.

This rich young man simply knew God. It takes a man who has the fear of God to consistently keep God's commandments for a very long time without moving out of it. This was why he ran to

Jesus, that he might know more, because he really wanted to know more, seeing that he had been walking uprightly for a long time, and examined himself, finding out within himself that he was perfect to make heaven. Therefore, according to his **own personal evaluation**, he was keeping God's commandments, and he had not fallen short in any aspect. To confirm that, he had to ask someone whom he believed was also perfect. As God's children, we need to learn from this young man. We must often evaluate our lives, examine ourselves if our ways are still right before the Lord. **“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” — 2 Corinthians 13:5 KJV.**

We must not be content with our current spiritual state, but seek more like this young man. Imagine he thought he was already perfect. He would not have gone to Jesus and would not have asked if he still had something to do to be perfect. Matthew tells us that after he told the Lord that he had been observing the commandments right from childhood, he asked what else he lacked. **“The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?” — Matthew 19:20 KJV.** It is good for us to observe that he was rich, not through defrauding others. For he said he kept the commandments, and Jesus did not say he lied about it.

This means that a man can be legitimately rich, and not through dubious means. **“What do I still lack?”** he asked the Lord. Apart from self-examination, we must learn to ask the Lord what other things we do lack in our race to the kingdom of God. We must not rely only on our self-examination, but seek the Lord seriously and wholeheartedly to know the areas we still fall short that we can work on them. God knows us better than we know ourselves, and He knows the secrets that we do not know about our lives.

There are areas of our lives which Satan can hide from us and can even make us ignorant of, which makes us fall short. But when we ask the Lord what things we lack, He would show us that we might not lose our souls at the end. If we move further, Mark tells us that Jesus, looking upon him, loved him. It was not that the Lord hated him before, but at this time He had a deeper kind of love for him. He felt a genuine love for him. Why is it at this point that He loved him? It is possibly because of the conversation He had with him, and that the Lord could see how truthful he was. And seeing a young man seeking Him, though rich, yet wanted to make heaven, and was not distracted by the things of this world, but was seeking how he could make heaven, Jesus loved him.

“Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest...” — Mark 10:21 KJV. What a special kind of love! It appears that those who seek the Lord sincerely are loved by Him. We read of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha, whom Jesus loved. **“Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.” — John 11:5 KJV.** We can also read of John the Beloved, who is referred to as the disciple whom Jesus loved. **“Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.” — John 13:23 KJV**

It does not mean that the Lord does not love others, but He knows the heart of all men. This does not also mean that Jesus loving someone means He always approved their choices, for His love could include correction, difficult commands, and truth, as with the rich young ruler. And from that statement that Jesus loved him, we can see that the command the Lord gave to him next was not out of hatred but love. **“You lack one thing,”** Jesus replied to him. Though he had been keeping the commandments for long, there was still one aspect remaining. It is interesting to see that the young man did not lack in two things or more things, but just one thing, and the Lord pointed it out to him. Matthew

said that the Lord said if he would be perfect, which means the perfection God needed was different and greater than the one he already thought he had. “Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.” — **Matthew 19:21 KJV**. There is more about God's perfection which many do not know and seek for. We cannot be truly perfect until we seek Him. This tells us that examining ourselves is not enough; we must seek God's examination. There was only one thing standing between the man and God's needed perfection, and it was not necessarily his riches, but the spiritual maturity which accompanies self-sacrificing character.

It appears that this young man was rich but fell short in the aspect of self-sacrificing as regarding his wealth, which means he was not generous enough because Jesus said he should sell all he had and distribute to the poor, and he would have riches in heaven. Then he should come and be His disciple. From the Lord's statement, it showed that the man, though he was earthly rich, had no riches, treasures in heaven. From this, the riches he had were not the problem, but the riches were standing against his total surrenderedness to Jesus, and of a truth, his reaction to the words of the Lord proved it right.

He could not forgo those riches to follow Christ. Though he loved God, something stood between him and eternal life. Paul told Timothy about this. “Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;” — **1 Timothy 6:17 KJV**. Command them not to trust in uncertain riches, he says. Even riches are uncertain, as they can fly away. They do not have the capacity of taking a man to heaven, and the only thing they could do is to give such men heavenly treasures as they make use of them aright on earth. This is something to

think about as a rich man or woman. How do you make use of your riches? Are you rich towards God? How often do you give to the poor and fellow believers? How well do you support the work of the kingdom? Assuming this young ruler was selfless in his use of his wealth, he would have lacked nothing. But that area was not worked on in his life. Sadly, he never chose to work on it but departed sorrowfully. **“And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.” — Luke 18:23 KJV.** What is it that you also lack? Yes, you love the Lord. In fact, you are saved genuinely and you fear God. But if you examine your life well, you will see that there is still something you lack, which has made you short of God's kind of perfection.

In fact, it can be more than one thing, but working on them and not behaving like that young man who left instead of doing what the Lord said would prove that indeed you want to make heaven. Just like the rich young ruler, it can be that God is calling your attention to those who are in need around you, whom you should be generous to. It can be that God is telling you to support a particular man of God or ministry selflessly with your resources, which you have neglected and refused. And this has made you fall short before Him, like that young man. It can be God is saying there is still anger deep within you, which you must work on.

It can also be that the Lord is telling you to look into the area of tax paying, that you have not been paying your tax the way you should, or you have been bypassing electricity in your home. Or you are jumping queues, refusing to remain natural as a lady and plaiting your hair, taking bribes, and other things that you have counted as nothing. It can be a particular restitution which you have not done and He wants you to do. At times, you may not even know where you fall short like that young man, but He expects you to ask Him.

You lack one thing. What is it?

You can begin to work on them. You can list them out as the Holy Spirit is speaking to you now and begin to work on them one after the other. Remember, anything you lack can stop you from making heaven. The young ruler asked what things he needed to do to gain eternal life. And Jesus said, keep the commandments. Do you keep all of God's commandments? Or do you push some aside, saying they are too hard? It's time to reflect on your life now. Take some minutes to think deeply about things you still lack. Think about the things people still complain about in your life. Things your spouse complains about.

Things your children complain about. Things your parents complain about. Things even your friends complain about. And most importantly, things God Himself complains about in your life. Remember Saul the king. God complained about Saul that he did not obey Him fully. And Samuel told him clearly that obedience is better than sacrifice. **“And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” — 1 Samuel 15:22 KJV**

Remember God complained about the sins of Eli's sons, and his reply was that He is God and He should do whatever He wants to do, until he died on the same day with his two sons. Are you not like that? Saying whatever God wants to do, He should do, instead of choosing to amend your ways. How fortunate that young man would have been. If he had done what the Lord said, he would have secured eternal life for himself. He would have been closer to the Lord and possibly be remembered today for great exploits.

A man requested to follow Jesus about, but Jesus did not allow him to accompany Him. But He gave him another mission. “Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.” — **Mark 5:19 KJV**. This young rich ruler had the opportunity this man did not receive, but did not make use of it. And was left without any assignment. Where are his riches today? All forgotten. Let's humble ourselves before the Lord and continue to search our hearts, to see those things that we have esteemed above following God.

Let's begin to work on them. For the time is short. Go to God in prayers now. And ask Him questions that you may be perfect. Ask Him of that thing you lack, which can make you land in hell and make your labour a waste all these years, so that you can work on them while you still have the opportunity to do so. May the Lord show us the areas we need to work on, and help us to do so immediately, that we might not lose our souls, that we might not lose our glorious eternity, but reign with Him at the end. In Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

This is the end of this teaching.

Question

But I think the young man was a self righteous man

Answer

No sir... For someone who is self-righteous, such a person will lack more than just one thing. Such will be living an hypocritical life which the Pharisees lived and would certainly have issues with Jesus. Such will rely on self efforts and would not bother

asking the Lord what other things he needs to make heaven.
Such will live in pretence!, but it was not the case with this man.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp **+2347067511039** and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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