

WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING?

At that time, a man asked Jesus a very important question. He asked, “What do I need to do to get to heaven?”

Jesus helped him remember God’s commandments, like “do not steal, and do not kill.” Jesus also reminded the man that we should love our neighbor.

The man said that he had kept all the commandments. Jesus then told him that if he wanted to be perfect, he could do one more thing--he could sell what he owned, give the money to the poor, and follow Jesus as a disciple.

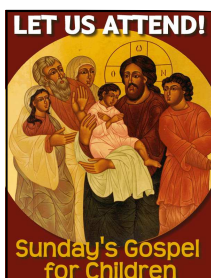
The man became sad, because he owned many things and did not want to give them up to follow Jesus.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What was the question the man asked Jesus?
2. Sometimes we have hard choices. Maybe we have been invited to the movies, but we need to visit our aunt and uncle. Our parents help us know what is most important.
3. Jesus wants us to learn what is more important than anything. It is to be a Christian.



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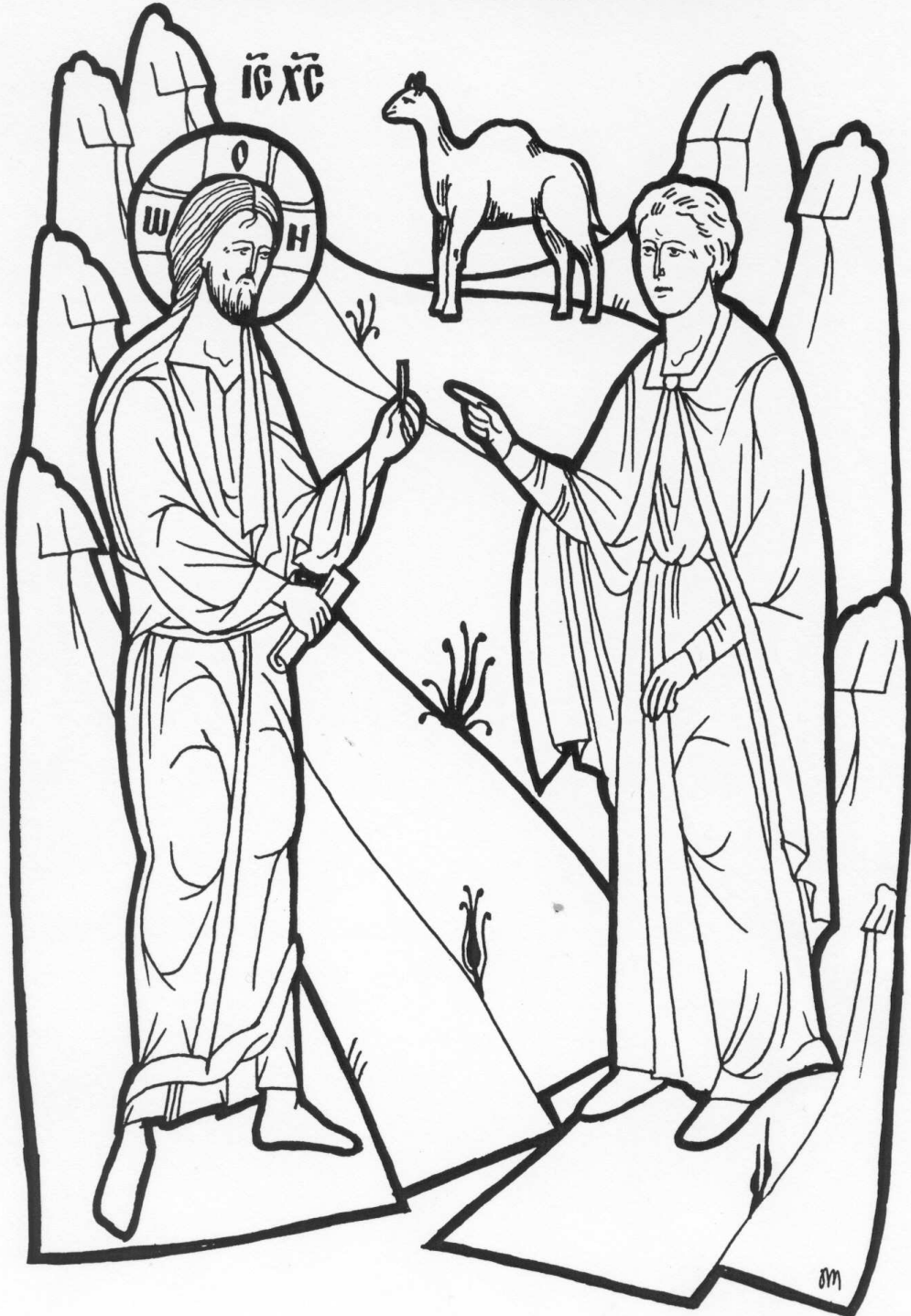


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THE RICH YOUNG MAN



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Pre-12



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WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING?

One day, a young man came to see our Lord Jesus Christ. The young man knelt before Jesus and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing must I do, to have eternal life?”

Jesus said, “Why do you call Me good? The only good one is God. If you want to really live, keep the commandments.”

The young man asked Jesus which commandments he should keep, and Jesus answered, “Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not lie, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as you love yourself.”

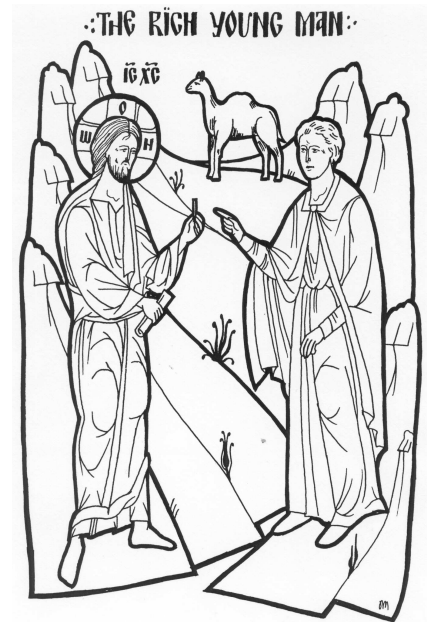
The young man said to Jesus, “I have been keeping these commandments ever since I was young. What am I missing?”

Jesus said, “If you really want to do what is right, go sell what you have and give it to poor people. Then, your treasure will be in heaven. Then, come and follow me!”

When the young man heard that, he left. He was very sad. He had so many things and he loved them all.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “It will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter God’s kingdom.”

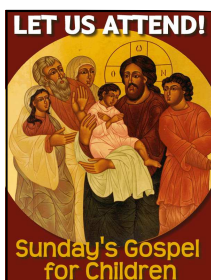
When the disciples heard this, they wondered who could really be saved! Jesus looked at them and said, “With men, this seems like it can not happen. But, with God, anything can happen!”



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What was the question the man asked Jesus?
2. Sometimes we have hard choices. Maybe we have been invited to the movies, but we need to visit our aunt and uncle, instead. Our parents help us know what is most important. They will help us choose what is right.
3. What is important to you? Is it more important than God?
4. Jesus wants us to stay close to him. Then we will know that He is more important than anyone else or anything else.



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MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING

At that time, a young man came to Jesus, kneeling before him and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?"

And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? There is no good but One, and that is God. If you would enter life, keep the commandments."

He said to Jesus, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

The young man said to Jesus, "All these I have observed from my youth; what do I still lack?"

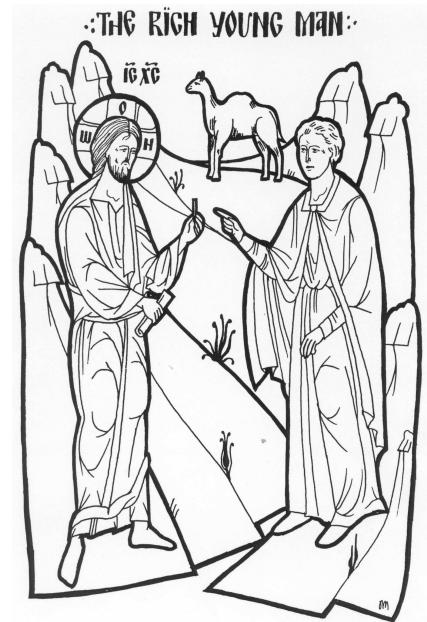
Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, 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."

When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"

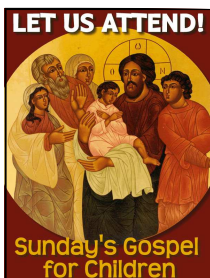
But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Of all the commandments Jesus recited to the young man, which is the most difficult?
2. Is it harder for a rich person to follow Jesus? Why or why not?
3. Think about all that you have. Would you be willing to sell what you have and give to the poor, as Jesus told the young man to do?
4. The young man asked Jesus an important question. If you had the chance to ask Jesus a question, what would it be?



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MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING

Characters: Narrator, Man, Jesus, Disciples

Jesus: Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, 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.

Narrator: At that time, a young man came to Jesus, kneeling before him and saying,

Man: Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?

Narrator: And Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Why do you call me good? There is no good but One, and that is God. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.

Narrator: He said to Jesus,

Man: Which?

Narrator: And Jesus said,

Jesus: You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Narrator: The young man said to Jesus,

Man: All these I have observed from my youth; what do I still lack?

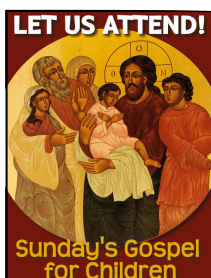
Narrator: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.

Narrator: When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples,



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HE WENT AWAY SORROWFUL

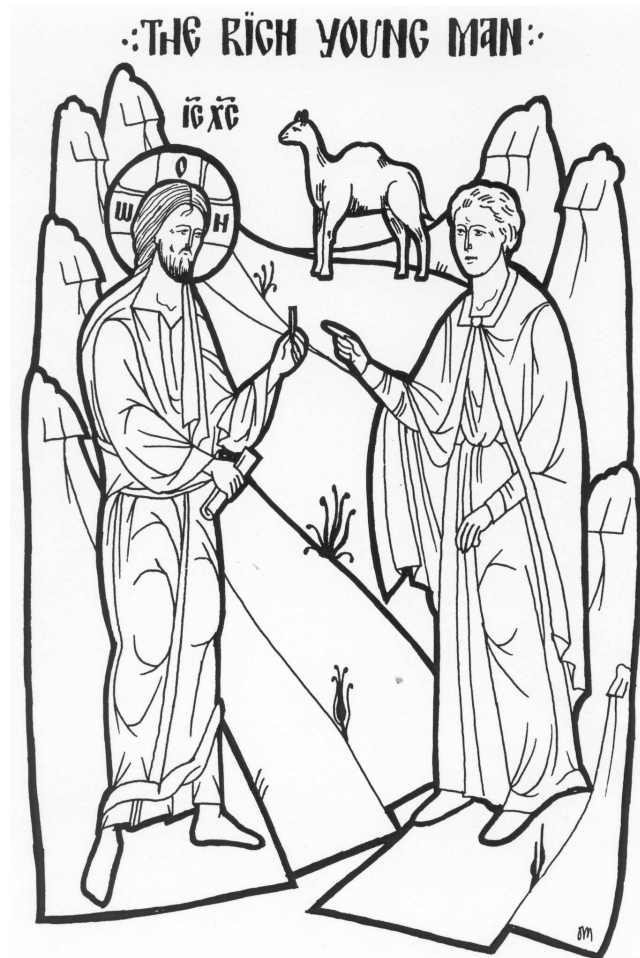
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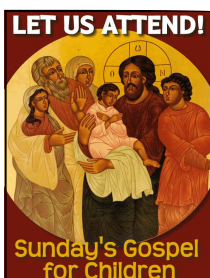
And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"

But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. If you had the chance to ask Jesus a question, what would it be?
2. Orthodox Christians know that theosis, becoming godlike, is our life's goal. How is that the same, or different, than the question the young man asked Jesus?
3. Of all the commandments Jesus recited to the young man, which is the most difficult?
4. Is it harder for a rich person to follow Jesus? Why or why not?
5. Is it harder for a poor person to believe in God? What might change their mind?
6. The Pharisees thought God rewarded the good people with wealth. In the reading, where do you find evidence of this belief? Is it true?



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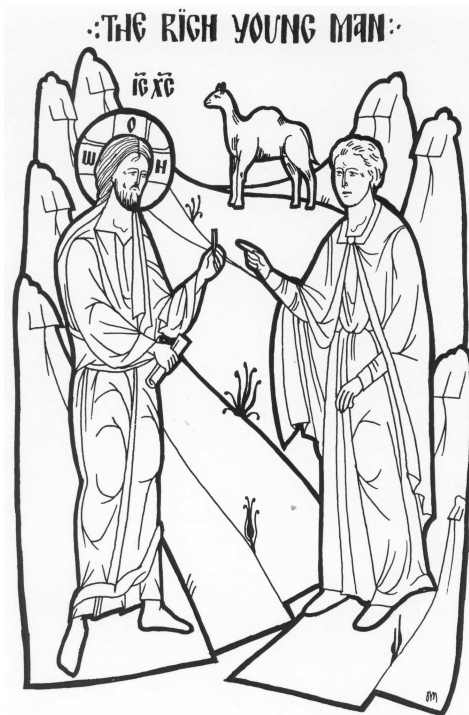
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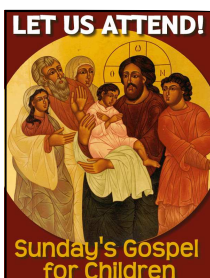
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But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Orthodox Christians know that theosis, becoming godlike, is our life’s goal. How is that the same, or different, than the question the young man asked Jesus?
2. Do people ever ask questions they think they know the answer to?
3. Of all the commandments Jesus recited to the young man, which is the most difficult?
4. Is it harder for a rich person to follow Jesus? Why or why not?
5. The Pharisees thought God rewarded the good people with wealth. In the reading, where do you find evidence of this belief? Is it true?
6. Are wealthy people respected more in our society? Should they be?



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