

Scripture Readings: Judges 2:11-19 ✕ Psalm 106:34-37, 39-40, 43ab, 44 ✕ Matthew 19:16-22

**T**here is something likable about the young man's pressing question to Jesus in our Gospel passage today, that of a person who seeks ideals by which to live. This young man was sincere about finding spiritual meaning and purpose. It was a vital question, "What good must I do to gain eternal life?"<sup>1</sup> In reply, Jesus recited several commandments, commandments about how to be just and kind to others. The way to eternal life is to be life-giving and law-abiding.



The young man was not satisfied with this answer because he was already doing all of this, and he sensed that there was more that he could be giving of himself. When Jesus revealed what this "more" might be, it seemed to be too much for him; He invited the rich young man to sell his property and give his money to the poor. It was too big a sacrifice, so the young man wilted and went away "grieving", perhaps wondering what might have been.

Such a challenging, austere lifestyle is not for everyone. Yet, for each of us, the path to life, the path God wants us to follow, will always include some level self-denial and an unselfish relationship with others. By His teaching and example, Jesus shows us all what we must do to gain eternal life. ✕

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 19:16