

- ↳ Last time we looked at the fact of misplaced faith, we had allowed ourselves to be talked into believing in our delivery of God's message as opposed to the message itself. We have lost our faith in the single thing that converts a sinner to a saint, i.e., Romans 10:17. The gospel; not the preacher, the church, the ministry, music, or vehicle of delivery is the one thing that turns those dead in sin to those living by God, Romans 1:16. We tend to hold a popular, albeit, misinformed position on Scripture; we would never say that we don't believe in the power of it, but our actual beliefs are betrayed by our actions. Would you be willing to agree with me that Jesus has the correct position on the Scriptures and that to be followers of Jesus we need to agree with Jesus about the Bible?
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1. Jesus made some startling statements about the Bible.

- ✓ "Jot" or "Yod" is the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet; it looks like an apostrophe and is about the same size, it could be easily overlooked, Matthew 5:18. A "tittle" is a small line that distinguishes between letters in the alphabet, but it matters because the difference between an E and F is a tittle. Jesus isn't talking on a sentence, word or letter level of inspiration; He is speaking on sub-letter level of inspiration. Jesus' entire argument hangs on the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet, if it had been missing, there'd be no point to make, but because it's there, Jesus corners the entire brain trust of Pharisees with it!, Mark 12:35-37 with Matthew 22:46. How could it be possible for us to say we follow Jesus and not hold the same position on Scripture that Jesus has? Either Jesus knows the truth and we need to get in line, or we know the truth and Jesus needs to get in line! Letters matter because words matter, words matter because of the accuracy of the message. God doesn't oversee His Word haphazardly, Psalm 12:6-7 with Jeremiah 1:12. Again, the Bible teaches us that it is the message and not the messenger that brings people to faith in Jesus, but if our belief in the message is something less than that of the Son of God we obviously will be ineffective.

2. This young man is the best in the religious world.

- ✓ He's a ruler which referred to his position within the synagogue, he's young and yet he's risen to be the leader in his religion.

3. He's rich, the text tells us that plainly, and his riches are his God.

- ✓ Jesus, without saying that he worships at the altar of money and things, gave him a very simple command that revealed his heart, i.e., "go and sell". Jesus doesn't say this to Peter, for instance, but Peter had affectively done that, but Jesus did say to him "come follow Me." Jesus doesn't say it to Matthew, but he had affectively done that as well, and He did tell Matthew, "come follow Me." He says this to this man because that is his issue, he doesn't want a Savior and God because he already has one.

4. He's similar to the apostle Paul back when he was Saul.

- ✓ Paul was a young, ambitious, a leader in his religion, almost certainly wealthy, but headed to Hell, Philippians 3:6-8. Would God ask any of us to give up all of our stuff in order to follow Him? If those things are dragging you to Hell, of course!

5. Jesus holds him to his own words because words matter: Luke 18:18-19

- ✓ We throw words around without much consideration, and we assume that God is like us, but that is not true. "Good", "love" are examples of words we use with little consideration for their real meanings. Words matter: "inherit" to inherit requires you to be an heir, either you are or you aren't an heir, it's that simple. "What must I do?" Either you're an heir, thus, need to do nothing, or you have to earn it and have a lot you need to do. "Good" Jesus holds him down on his definition of good, good in a relative sense? "I'm good compared to or you are compared to me", or good in an absolute sense?, in a Heaven sense: only God is good. Are you good enough for Heaven? Will God hold us to our own words?, Matthew 12:37.
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6. Jesus holds him to God's Word.

- ✓ Jesus doesn't give him the info He gives to woman at the well: John 4:25-26. He doesn't say, "If you want eternal life, I'm the Savior." Why? The man already has a savior, himself. He cannot graduate to knowing the Savior because he has not passed "Conviction of Sin 101" where "you are sinner in need of a savior." The Law teaches one thing only, Galatians 3:21-22, that we are sinners in need of a Savior. Jesus sends him back to class: Galatians 3:23-24. Jesus leaves him in class until he learns what the law teaches us: we are sinners in need of a savior. He's claiming perfection!, Luke 18:20-21 with James 2:10. Jesus corners him with the Law he claimed to keep, Luke 18:22.
- ✓ Modern Evangelism's answer to sinful world is tell them that God loves them and wants to make their lives better, but that is not what Jesus does with this man. We try to sell them on a better life, better finances, happier disposition, and a better marriage, but Jesus doesn't ever say those things to a lost person.

Jesus on Evangelism: the world needs to be cornered by their sin. Have you stolen? You are thief that plans to go to Heaven, what is your plan? Have you lied? You are liar that plans to go to Heaven, what is your plan? Have you lusted? Jesus says it's the same as adultery. Have you hated? Jesus says it is the same as murder. You are a lying, murdering, adulterating, thief and you plan to go to Heaven, what is your plan?
