

- ✚ This story flips most of our understanding of evangelism over on its head. It trashes most of our modern terms and methods of bringing someone to Christ. One, this man is the perfect seeker, he asks the right questions, asks the right Person, has the right attitude, on his knees, he doesn't have ulterior motives like most of Pharisees and he is not trying to trap Jesus. But he walks away from the Son of God unsaved. Two, Jesus doesn't do with him what many of us would have done. He doesn't tell him that He is the Savior. He doesn't say "Pray this prayer." He doesn't follow him when he walks away. We would perform a miracle if we could, but Jesus does not. Miracles don't convert anybody, as Jesus said in Luke 16:31.

1. We've learned that lost people, like this man, are not just lost—they are also dead. Ephesians 2:1-2.

- ✓ If someone's lost in a physical sense they are looking for a way out as we are looking for them. If someone's lost in a spiritual sense, they aren't looking for a way out, they're just dead! Not going to be dead, they are dead already. It will not matter how loud you yell or how eloquently you speak or the miracle you perform, they won't be impressed! They have to hear the words of the God who created them or there will be no life in them. We have lost our faith in the single thing that converts, the Good News about the Christ which can convert a sinner into a saint, see Romans 10:17. The gospel, not the preacher or the church or the ministry, the music, the messenger, the presentation or whatever vehicle of delivery used, see Romans 1:16.

2. We saw that not only does Jesus not tell him that He is the Savior, but He also sends him back to the Law.

- ✓ He cannot graduate to knowing the Savior because he has not passed "Conviction of Sin 101" which says "you are sinner in need of a savior!" The Law only teaches one thing, note Galatians 3:21-22. Jesus sends him back to class, Galatians 3:23-24. Jesus sends him away because He's not interested in temporary converts. Until a person is cornered by their sin debt they will not really turn to the Savior. Jesus doesn't give this man the good news of the New Covenant because he's not ready to hear it!

3. Until we have graduated from the Old Covenant, we aren't ready for the New Covenant.

- ✓ Not only does Jesus not tell this man that He is the Savior, i.e. the New Covenant, but He also sent him back to the Old Testament, the Old Covenant. There is a nasty rumor circulating among us that the Old Testament is no longer necessary. That is not just a little off, it is rank heresy. If this is your thinking, you're going to find that all of the New Testament writers and the King of New Testament, Jesus, disagrees with you. Are Jesus' words only recorded in the New Testament?, no, Romans 10:17. That could only not be true if He were not God. If He's not God then our goose is cooked because only God can save us, Isaiah 43:11. Which is it? If only God saves and Jesus is the Savior, then Jesus must be God! If A=B and B=C, then C=A (the Transitive Law), Titus 1:3-4. Since Jesus is God, then the original part of the "Word of God", the Old Testament, is also Jesus' words. Note that it is impossible that He could have been referring to anything in the New Testament since the New Testament hadn't been written yet, Romans 10:17 and 1st Corinthians 15:3-4. But of course He's not referring the New Testament, 2nd Timothy 3:14-17. The Old Testament has not nor will it ever cease to be the "Word of God" and, thus, the "Word of Christ". To say otherwise, is heresy, don't be a heretic!

4. Back to the Old Covenant.

- ✓ Jesus sends him back to the Bible, which, of course, was only the Old Testament at that time, because he hadn't learned what it teaches. Again, it is rank heresy to say that the Old Testament and Old Covenant is not necessary for New Testament church because the Savior of New Covenant sends this man back to the Old Covenant to learn what it teaches. The Word of God is also the Word of Jesus, but also the Sword of Spirit, Hebrews 4:12. Not the sword of the church, of the Baptists, of the method or whatever ministry that may be. It is not sharp because of our fluff, beautiful buildings, beautiful music or beautiful preachers, we add nothing to its effectiveness. It is sharp because it is God's Word. Jesus sends this man back into heart surgery because until the heart has been pierced by the Law, it's not ready for the Savior.

If Jesus sends them back into heart surgery what should we be doing? There is a reason why the Bible is written bad news and then good news. As per Jesus' example, people aren't ready for New covenant "the good news" until they have been worked on by and fully digested the Old Covenant "the bad news".
