

- **Mark 10:17-22**—“And as he went forth into the way, a person ran up to him, and kneeling to him asked him, Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? But Jesus said to him, Why callest thou me good? no one is good but one, that is God. Thou knowest the commandments: Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honour thy father and mother. And he answering said to him, Teacher, all these things have I kept from my youth. And Jesus looking upon him loved him, and said to him, One thing lackest thou: go, sell whatever thou hast and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. But he, sad at the word, went away grieved, for he had large possessions.”

That is:

And as he [*Jesus*] went forth into the way, a person ran up to him, and kneeling to him asked him, **Good** Teacher, *what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life [thus taking the hopeless ground of works to secure his eternal destiny/salvation for the coming kingdom]? But Jesus [knowing the man’s true spiritual need and blindness] said to him, Why callest thou me **good**? no one is **good** but one, that is God. [What the Lord says is, of course, absolutely true; for man (fallen man) is evil and God alone is inherently, intrinsically good. His question to this man in no way suggests or implies that He Himself was not “good.” Just the opposite! No one is “good” except God; therefore, as Jesus **is** God—God and Man in one blessed Person (as witnessed in this Gospel and in the other three Gospels, and throughout all of scripture)—He **is** indeed inherently, intrinsically “good,” which is precisely that which He was impressing upon this spiritually blind sinner who is truly the one not “good” in any sense or degree, despite his self-deluded estimation.]* Thou knowest the commandments: Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honour thy father and mother. And he answering said to him, Teacher, all these things have I kept from my youth. And Jesus looking upon him loved him, and said to him [*according to His omniscient and infallibly penetrating wisdom*], One thing lackest thou [*that “one thing” is the fact that he **lacks spiritual sight**, able to perceive or recognize neither his own utter lost estate and depravity as a sinner before an infinitely holy God, nor the true glory of the Person standing before Him—as God incarnate in impeccable Manhood. The Lord thus proceeds to convict him of his spiritual state of darkness*]: go, sell whatever thou hast and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. [*This the man would be able to do, in obedience to the Lord’s express will for him, only if he first possessed the eyes of faith to perceive his plight as a lost sinner and need to trust in Christ, Jehovah-Jesus, as his Saviour.*] But he, sad at the word, went away grieved, for he had large possessions. [*Thus demonstrating the falsity of his self-estimation, standing convicted of the idolatry/love of money (trusting in riches, 10:24), of having other gods before Him—i.e., self and riches—of falling short of the glory of God and the great and first commandment to love the Lord his God with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his understanding.*]

- **Luke 18:18-23**—“And a certain ruler asked him saying, Good teacher, having done what, shall I inherit eternal life? But Jesus said to him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, God. 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. And he said, All these things have I kept from my youth. And when Jesus had heard this, he said to him, One thing is lacking to thee yet: Sell all that thou hast and distribute to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in the heavens, and come, follow me. But when he heard this he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.”

That is:

And a certain ruler asked him saying, **Good** teacher, *having done what*, shall I inherit eternal life [*thus taking the hopeless ground of works to secure his eternal destiny/salvation for the coming kingdom*]? But Jesus [*knowing the man’s true spiritual need and blindness*] said to him, Why callest thou me **good**? There is none **good** but one, God. [*What the Lord says is, of course, absolutely true; for man (fallen man) is evil and God alone is inherently, intrinsically good. His question to this man in no way suggests or implies that He Himself was not “good.” Just the opposite! No one is “good” except God; therefore, as Jesus **is** God—God and Man in one blessed Person (as witnessed in this Gospel and in the other three Gospels, and throughout all of scripture)—He **is** indeed inherently, intrinsically “good,” which is precisely that which He was impressing upon this spiritually blind sinner who is truly the one not “good” in any sense or degree, despite his self-deluded estimation.*] 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.

And he said, All these things have I kept from my youth. And when Jesus had heard this, he said to him *[according to His omniscient and infallibly penetrating wisdom]*, One thing is lacking to thee yet *[that “one thing” is the fact that he **lacks spiritual sight**, able to perceive or recognize neither his own utter lost estate and depravity as a sinner before an infinitely holy God, nor the true glory of the Person standing before Him—as God incarnate in impeccable Manhood. The Lord thus proceeds to convict him of his spiritual state of darkness]*: Sell all that thou hast and distribute to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in the heavens, and come, follow me. *[This the man would be able to do, in obedience to the Lord’s express will for him, only if he first possessed the eyes of faith to perceive his plight as a lost sinner and need to trust in Christ, Jehovah-Jesus, as his Saviour.]* But when he heard this he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. *[Thus demonstrating the falsity of his self-estimation, standing convicted of the idolatry/love of money (trusting in riches, Mark 10:24), of having other gods before Him—i.e., self and riches—of falling short of the glory of God and the great and first commandment to love the Lord his God with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his understanding.]*