

## Daily Devotional, October 26, 2020 Follow Without Hesitation

***<sup>16</sup> Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?” <sup>17</sup> “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good.” Matthew 19:17 (NIV)***

The Christian faith takes great courage. Much of what we do comes naturally. Yet, Jesus challenges us to move beyond what comes naturally, that is, what we normally do. Jesus challenged the people he encountered to move beyond what was simple and easy and follow Him into a deeper and more challenging faith.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus is questioned by a man who wanted to know, "What good thing must I do to get eternal life?" (v.16) Jesus returned the question with a question of His own, "Why do you ask me about what is good?" (v.17) The man who questioned Jesus was no stranger to good deeds. This is a young man who, it would seem, had lived a good life. He followed the law and was conscientious about his spiritual life. What was he missing? Why did he approach Jesus with his question?

The man who approached Jesus in this encounter has often been described as "The Rich Man." When he approached Jesus, he seemed sure of his ability to do the right thing. He had followed the rules, the Hebrew law, all of his life. Jesus challenged him to leave behind what was comfortable and to instead, follow Him. The rich man had lived a full life, but now Jesus was calling him into a new life, not just striving after good things, but following the source of all things good. It would be challenging because it would be a new normal.

The man in this encounter with Jesus gives us all reason to contemplate who we are and who it is that we follow. Following Jesus is challenging. Our faith often calls us beyond what is comfortable and normal. That is what often holds us back from following Jesus. This scripture in Matthew also reminds us that Jesus is good. We can bring our questions to Him. We can bring our worries, our struggles, our faith to Him, and He will call us to a deeper faith. It may be something new. It may be a change that makes us nervous, but it will be a new normal, created by the One who is truly good.

***Prayer: Jesus draw me close to Your heart. I open up my heart to You, and I invite You to search my heart and renew my spirit. Bring me into alignment with your Spirit. Thank you for the work you do in me. Teach me your ways, Jesus, reveal to me any area that I am not in agreement with your Word. I pray for a deep revelation and understanding of your truth. I trust you, Jesus, and I love that I can open my heart up to you. I know that your love is an unconditional, everlasting love. Amen.***