



The Mission Trail

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"LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST." — JOHN 4:35

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"...he went away sorrowful"

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"And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, 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 have I kept from my youth up. Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich." Luke 18:18-23

Friends, I have been thinking about this young man. There is one thing especially that strikes me very forcibly in regard to his visit to Jesus. That is when he left, he was very sorrowful. That seems rather unusual, doesn't it? Here a man came seeking truth. He wanted to be saved. I sincerely believe that he did. In fact he had been a good boy and had kept the commandments. No doubt he had not gone out into the vile sins of that day. But how unusual for a good man to come seeking the truth and then go away sorrowful. We might ask, "Well, why did he go away sorrowful?" "What was the reason?" It surely was not because Jesus had not the power to forgive his sin just like the man who had the palsy. Christ could have made him a saved man that very day. Now would you like to know really why this man was so sad? Then listen to this scripture in Matt. 16:24-26, "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will

save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

So the reason that young man went away sorrowful was because he was unwilling to take up his cross and follow the Lord. Friends, do you know that's true today? There are just a lot of folks who profess a love for the truth. They know it is the thing which they need in the day of death and they want to be saved in the end, but they are unwilling to take up their cross and live by the gospel and face the opposition which the world has to offer.

Do you suppose this is the same man Jesus was speaking about when he told of the fellow who didn't know what to do with all his crops because his fields had brought forth so plentifully? Then he decided what he was going to do, or at least what he thought he was going

