

What Am I Lacking?

Mark 10:17–22 (HCSB)	
<p>The Rich Young Ruler 17. As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 18. “Why do you call Me good?” Jesus asked him. “No one is good but One—God. 19. You know the commandments: Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not bear false witness; do not defraud; honor your father and mother.” 20. He said to Him, “Teacher, I have kept all these from my youth.” 21. Then, looking at him, Jesus loved him and said to him, “You lack one thing: Go, sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me.” 22. But he was stunned at this demand, and he went away grieving, because he had many possessions.</p>	<p>Deuteronomy 2:7 Verse Concepts For the Lord your God has blessed you in all that you have done; He has known your wanderings through this great wilderness. These forty years the Lord your God has been with you; you have not lacked a thing.”</p> <p>Psalm 34:10 in the Amplified Bible says: “The young lions lack food and suffer hunger, but they who seek (inquire of and require) the Lord [by right of their need and on the authority of His Word], none of them shall lack any beneficial thing.”</p>

Mark, for whom this gospel is named, seems to have targeted Roman believers, particularly Gentile and was a close companion of the Apostle Peter and a recurring character in the book of Acts, where *he is known as “John whose surname was Mark”* (Acts 12:12, 25; 15:37, 39). It was to John Mark’s mother’s home in Jerusalem that Peter went when released from prison (Acts 12:12).

John Mark was a cousin of Barnabas (Col. 4:10), who accompanied Paul and Barnabas on Paul’s first missionary journey (Acts 12:25; 13:5). But he deserted them along the way in Perga and returned to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). When Barnabas wanted Paul to take John Mark on the second missionary journey, Paul refused. The friction which resulted between Paul and Barnabas led to their separation (Acts 15:38–40).

But John Mark’s earlier vacillation evidently gave way to great strength and maturity, and in time he proved himself even to the Apostle Paul. When Paul wrote the Colossians, he instructed them that if John Mark came, they were to welcome him (Col. 4:10). Paul even listed

Mark as a fellow worker (Philem. 24). Later, Paul told Timothy to “Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry” (2 Tim. 4:11).

John Mark’s restoration to useful ministry may have been, in part, due to the ministry of Peter. Peter’s close relationship with Mark is evident from his description of him as “Mark my son” (1 Pet. 5:13). Peter, of course, was no stranger to failure himself, and his influence on the younger man was no doubt instrumental in helping him out of the instability of his youth and into the strength and maturity he would need for the work to which God had called him.

What was Mark Lacking? He was lacking experience and maturity in ministry and eventually proved himself to the Apostle Paul. However, the Apostle Peter mentored Mark through his challenges and positive influence was helpful and caused Mark to become stronger and more mature as a servant for the work he performed!

Now, what are you lacking? According to the rich young ruler who met Jesus one day, ran up to Jesus asked Him a question. ***What must I do to inherit eternal life? (v.17b)***

Scripture	Commentary on the verse (s)	Scripture cross reference (s)
<p>17. As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before Him, and asked Him, ¹<i>“Good Teacher, ²what must I do to inherit eternal life?”</i></p>	<p>1. Good Teacher: This title was never applied to other Rabbis in Jesus’ day because it implied sinlessness, a complete goodness. Jesus and everyone else recognized that He was being called by a unique title.</p> <p>2. The focus of the man’s question is <i>what shall I do</i>. He thought eternal life was a matter of earning and deserving, not of relationship.</p>	
<p>18. ¹. <i>“Why do you call Me good?”</i> Jesus asked him. “No one is good but One—God. 19. ². You know the commandments: Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not bear false witness; do not defraud; honor your father and mother.”</p>	<p>¹.<i>“Why do you call Me good? This was not Jesus denying His deity. Instead, He invited the young man to reflect upon it.</i> It is as if Jesus said, “do you really know what you are saying when you call Me good?”</p> <p>There is no instance in the whole Talmud (the body of Jewish civil and ceremonial law and legend) of a rabbi being addressed as ‘Good Master.’ Only God was called good by ancient rabbis.</p> <p>². You know the commandments: Being a Jew, this man knew the commandments. Jesus was careful</p>	

	<p>to quote to him only those commandments from what is often called the second table of the law, addressing how we treat one another.</p> <p>Each one of these commandments is pure, just, and good. The world would be a much better place if everyone lived by just the five commandments Jesus mentioned here.</p>	
<p>20. He said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these from my youth."</p>	<p>In his reply, this ruler said of himself that he had kept all these commandments, and that he has done so since his youth. This was possible according to the way these commandments were commonly interpreted but impossible according to the true meaning of God for these commandments.</p>	
<p>21. Then, looking at him, Jesus loved him and said to him, "<i>You lack one thing:</i> ¹. <u>Go, sell all you have and give to the poor,</u> and you will have treasure in heaven. ². <u>Then come, follow Me.</u>"</p> <p>22. But he was stunned at this demand, and he went away grieving, because he had many possessions.</p>	<p>He also did not choose to love God more than his wealth, even though Jesus specifically promised him treasure in heaven. The man was more interested in the earthly treasure of men than in God's heavenly treasures. This man was essentially an idolater. Wealth was his god instead of the true God of the Bible. He put money first.</p>	