



God Is A Faithful Rewarder!

"Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?" (Matthew 19:27).

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"Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? 28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. 30 But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first." (Matthew 19:27-30).

Following the rejection of a golden opportunity by the rich young ruler, Peter asked a pertinent questions. The courage to ask the right questions, will change your life, if you are ready to act on the answer.

- 1) You have probably come across the expression "A coward dies many times before their death, but he valiant never taste of death but once". Fear and risk aversion bring repeated torment and missed opportunities. Imagine the reality of the situation: the rich young ruler was running away from an opportunity that others like Peter have willingly and joyfully embraced.
- 2) Peter's question suggests that he probably embraced the opportunity without thinking of the rewards. His primary motive and driver was service to God rather than a "what is in it for me?" consideration. He was probably surprised to see the rich young ruler run away from an opportunity he had already embraced. This prompted his question, that brought an eye-opening revelation.
- 3) The rich young ruler felt that the price was too high and that nobody could possibly pay such a price, without realising that the disciples standing in front of him at the time of this conversation, had already paid the price. Ignorance is not a bliss, rather it can cost a fortune. He threw away a better opportunity ahead of Him in exchange for temporary pos-

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sessions that he would one day have to leave behind for other, only to face an empty eternity in perpetual poverty and suffering.

- 4) The pursuit after earthly possessions can blind people to their real and long term needs, as clearly illustrated in the story of the rich man in Luke 16:19-31.
- 5) Following Jesus now, pave the way to reigning and ruling with Him in eternity (vs 28).
- 6) What a person sacrifices in contemporary times for the course of Christ, are never lost but become like seeds in fertile ground that yield "an hundredfold" in this life as well as grant access to everlasting life. The reverse is equally true that what a person withholds from the course of Christ in this life can be devoured by the devourer, destroyed by rust and cankerworm as well as rob the soul of the person from eternal life (Luke 16:19-31).
- 7) Real wisdom takes the long look, makes the right decision no matter how hard and unpopular it may be, and balances temporary aggrandisements with eternal realities.
- 8) Jesus' statement that **"But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first"** (vs 30) is worth considering. The rich young ruler definitely thought that he was first in terms of material riches, popularity, position and power, but did not recognise that compared to spiritual realities, he was last.

This message calls for sobriety and right perspectives in making right decisions every time.