

THE RICH YOUNG MAN



One day, a man asked Jesus a very important question. He asked, “What do I need to do to get to heaven?”

Jesus helped him remember God’s commandments, like “do not steal, and do not kill.” Jesus also reminded the man that we should love our neighbor.

The man said that he had kept all the commandments. Jesus then told him that if he wanted to be perfect, he could do one more thing--he could sell what he owned, give the money to the poor, and follow Jesus as a disciple.

The man became sad, because he owned many things and did not want to give them up to follow Jesus.

1. What was the question the man asked Jesus?

2. Sometimes we have hard choices. Maybe we have been invited to the movies, but we need to visit our aunt and uncle. Our parents help us know what is most important.

3. Jesus wants us to learn what is more important than anything. It is to be a Christian.

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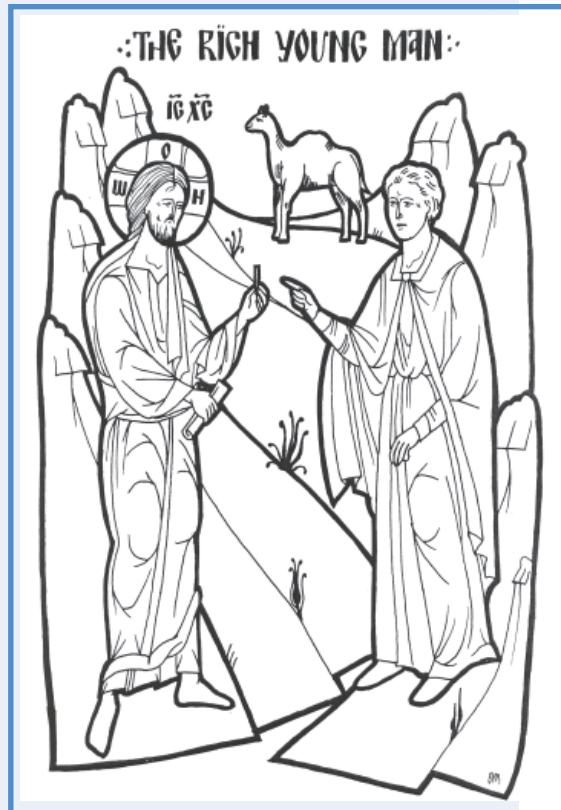
3. Who are some important people in your life?

4. Jesus wants us to stay close to him. Then we will know that he is more important than anyone else, or anything else. Jesus is God.

At that time,

a young man came to Jesus, kneeling before him and saying, “Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? There is no good but One, and that is God. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” He said to Jesus, “Which?” And Jesus said, “You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” The young man said to Jesus, “All these I have observed from my youth; what do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the



kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

1. Of all the commandments Jesus recited to the young man, which is the most difficult?

2. Is it harder for a rich person to follow Jesus? Why, why not?

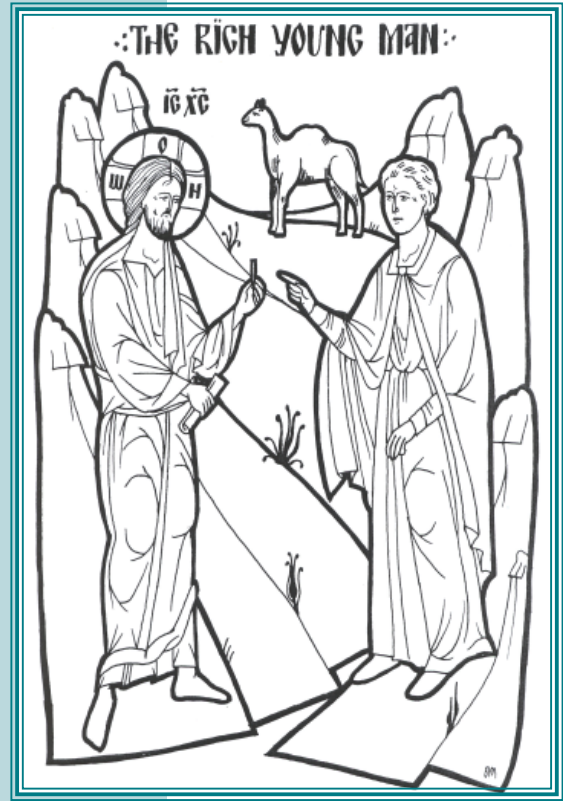
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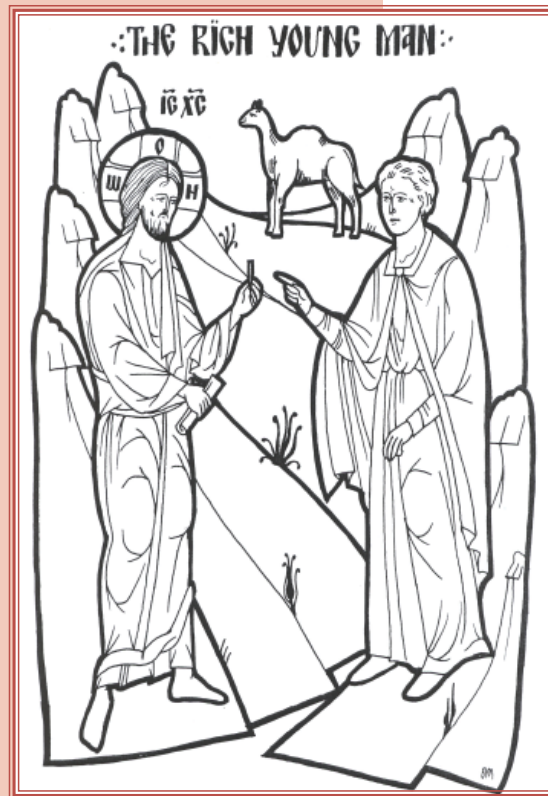
1. If you had the chance to ask Jesus a question, what would it be?
2. Orthodox Christians know that *theosis*, becoming godlike, is our life's goal. How is that the same, or different, than the question the young man asked Jesus?
3. Of all the commandments Jesus recited to the young man, which is the most difficult?
4. Is it harder for a rich person to follow Jesus? Why, why not?
5. Is it harder for a poor person to believe in God? What might change their mind?
6. The Pharisees thought God rewarded the good people with wealth. In the reading, where do you find evidence of this belief? Is it true?

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1. Orthodox Christians know that *theosis*, becoming godlike, is our life's goal. How is that the same, or different, than the question the young man asked Jesus?
2. Do people ever ask questions they think they know the answer to?
3. Of all the commandments Jesus recited to the young man, which is the most difficult?
4. Is it harder for a rich person to follow Jesus? Why, why not?
5. The Pharisees thought God rewarded the good people with wealth. In the reading, where do you find evidence of this belief? Is it true?
6. Are wealthy people respected more in our society? Should they be?