

Matthew 19:16–30; Mark 10:17–31

“What Lack I Yet?” (Matthew 19:20)

A wealthy young man asked Jesus what was required of him to obtain eternal life. Jesus lovingly invited the young man to sell his riches and follow Him. This lesson will encourage you to learn from the Savior what He would have you do as you seek to better follow Him.

Advice on how to improve

Choose something you like to do and that you are good at (for example, a sport, a musical instrument, a hobby, a subject in school, or work). Then honestly evaluate your abilities in that activity and your desire to improve by answering questions such as the following:

- What are your strengths? What are your weaknesses?

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Now ask yourself the same questions again, but this time with your spiritual progress in mind (for example, you could focus on your gospel knowledge, your worthiness, your desires for improvement, or your Christlike attributes).

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In the New Testament, we learn about a young man who decided to seek counsel from the Savior. Read [Matthew 19:16–19](#) to learn about this young man’s question and how the Savior initially responded to him.

- How do you think the Savior’s response to this young man applies to our lives as well?

- What do you learn about Jesus Christ from His response?

Read and consider marking the question the young man asked that is recorded in [Matthew 19:20](#) . Consider rewriting his question in your scriptures using your own words.

President Harold B. Lee (1899–1973) taught:

Every one of us, if we would reach perfection, must [at] one time ask ourselves this question, “What lack I yet?”
([Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Harold B. Lee](#) [2000], 197)

1. Respond to the following questions:

- How can asking this question help us better follow Jesus Christ?

- How would our efforts to follow the Savior be impacted if we did not ask this question?

- Why are Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ best suited to help you learn what you need to change?

The Gospel of Mark adds some important details about Jesus Christ to this account. Read [Mark 10:21](#) , looking for evidence of the following truth: **Because Jesus Christ loves us, He will help us know what we lack in our efforts to follow Him.**

Notice that [Mark 10:21](#) does not mention the Savior vocally expressing His love. Yet Mark wrote that “Jesus beholding him loved him.” Take some time to ponder how Jesus Christ views you and the love that He feels for you.

2. Respond to the following questions:

- Why is it important to know that Jesus Christ loves those who come to Him for correction?

- How are the Savior’s invitations to improve a sign of His love?

- What does [Ether 12:27](#) teach about how the Lord can help you?

Read [Mark 10:22](#) to see what the young man chose to do.

Elder Bruce R. McConkie (1915–1985) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles explained some possible consequences of the young man’s decision.

We are left to wonder what intimacies [the young rich man] might have shared with the Son of God, what fellowship he might have enjoyed with the apostles, what revelations and visions he might have received, if he had been able to live the law of a celestial kingdom. As it is, he remains nameless; as it might have been, his name could have been had in honorable remembrance among the saints forever. (Bruce R. McConkie, “[Obedience, Consecration, and Sacrifice](#),” Ensign, May 1975, 51)

- If you could go back in time and talk to this young man before he decided to walk away from the Savior’s invitation, what would you say to him?

Are you willing to ask and obey?

Close your eyes and try to imagine the Savior looking at you with that same love He had for the young man in this account.

Elder Larry R. Lawrence of the Seventy extended the following invitation and promise.

I would like to suggest that each of you participate in a spiritual exercise sometime soon, perhaps even tonight while saying your prayers. Humbly ask the Lord the following question: “What is keeping me from progressing?” In other words: “What lack I yet?” Then wait quietly for a response. If you are sincere, the answer will soon become clear. It will be revelation intended just for you. (Larry R. Lawrence, “[What Lack I Yet?](#)” Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2015, 35)

- What impact do you think accepting Elder Lawrence’s suggestion would have on your life? What impact might not accepting it have?

- What impact does a knowledge of Christ’s love for you have on your willingness to ask this question?

Take some time now to ask God what He would have you change in your life. It could be something that you should stop doing, start doing, or do differently. Then reflect on your life and write down thoughts and impressions that come to you. (If your answer does not come quickly, continue to ask over time with a determination to obey the answer when you receive it. God will answer at the right time and in the best way for you.)
