

Special Hour 1

still, to notice the truths which He brought out. Now this story of the rich young ruler is one which is given in Matthew, in Mark and in Luke. As you know, there are those who prefer to study the Bible in a harmony. in the early days of the church said we didn't need four gospels all overlapping. He took a section of Matthew, a section of Mark, a section of John and a section of Luke. He did away with the parallel passages and he made one long story of the life of Christ, and thus you have no repetition there, and he thought the church would use that, but in a short time they discarded it and they went back to the four gospels. The Holy Spirit gave us the four gospels and the four gospels are what the Holy Spirit wanted us to have. I don't think the most vital thing is, "Just what do we learn?" We have a fact here. Well, it is also in Matthew and Mark. What difference does that make? We've got it in Luke. Let's be satisfied. I don't think that is it. I think the question is, "What did the Holy Spirit want us to have?" And everything He wanted us to have is important, and when He thought something of importance enough to give it in Matthew and in Mark and in Luke, then it surely has a special importance. When He thought that an exhortation or an admonition or a declaration or an incident was important to give two or three times in different gospels, then surely the Holy Spirit must say, "It is all important but here is something that is especially important. Here is something that you want to study and apply to your heart and to your life, and the story of the rich young ruler is told in all three of the synoptics. There are slight changes; that is, there are a few little words put in one or the other which are not in the other two, but not many. It is almost word for word in the three, and certainly, then, it is a story which the Holy Spirit considers of real importance for our study and for our consideration. Now we find that it began with a certain ruler, as two of the synoptics tell us. The other one simply says that a young man came-- that this young man came and he said to Him, "Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" You would immediately expect that Jesus would say, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." That's the answer to