

October 28 Answers

- 1) The rich young ruler believed eternal life could be obtained by what he **did**, and he was especially interested in some good **deed** that would guarantee his place in the Kingdom. Jesus asked him: “Why do you call me good? No one is good except **God** alone.” Jesus was trying to help him see that goodness is not something that can be achieved by an effort of the **will**. It comes only by being **united** with the source of goodness—God. If the man truly believed the **implication** of his words—if he really thought that Jesus was God—then he would want to be Jesus’ **disciple**. But the young man didn’t see Jesus’ point, and so Jesus continued by talking in terms of what the man was focused on: “what must I do.” Jesus told him to “**keep** the commandments” and listed those which dealt with **relationships** with others. He concluded with a summary statement, “You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself” (Lev 19:18). Jesus used the **law** to remind the young man of the importance of love, for his real problem lay in the fact that he loved his **possessions** more than he loved God and others.