

Mark 10:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

Analysis

Jesus responded, 'Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God' (Τί με λέγεις ἀγαθόν; οὐδεὶς ἀγαθὸς εἰ μὴ εῖς ὁ θεός). This isn't Jesus denying His goodness or deity but forcing the man to consider what 'good' means. If only God is good, and the man calls Jesus good, he must grapple with Jesus' identity. Is Jesus merely a human teacher or is He God incarnate? The question also exposes human inability to achieve goodness—'none good' includes all humanity apart from God. The man sought to 'do good' to earn life, but Jesus reveals that true goodness belongs exclusively to God. This prepares for Jesus' teaching that salvation is impossible for humans but possible for God (v. 27). Reformed theology emphasizes total inability—humans cannot achieve the goodness God requires; salvation requires divine intervention.

Historical Context

Jewish theology affirmed God's exclusive goodness and holiness (Psalm 145:9; Isaiah 6:3). Yet the man addressed Jesus as 'good' using term typically reserved for God. Jesus' question forced deeper reflection: was this mere flattery or recognition of Jesus' divine identity? The Pharisees rejected Jesus' deity, viewing His claims as blasphemy (Mark 2:7; 14:61-64). Jesus' question subtly pointed toward His true identity while exposing the man's incomplete understanding. Early Christological debates centered on Jesus' deity—Arians denied it, orthodoxy affirmed it (Nicene

Creed). This passage became key text: Jesus' question doesn't deny deity but prompts recognition that if He is 'good,' He must be God.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' question challenge superficial religious respect versus genuine recognition of His divine identity?
2. What does Jesus' statement 'none good but God' teach about human moral inability and the necessity of divine grace?

Interlinear Text

τὰς	ἐντολὰς	οἶδας·	Μὴ	μοιχεύσῃς	Μὴ	φονεύσῃς
G3588	the commandments	G1492	not	Do	not	Do
	G1785		G3361	G3431	G3361	G5407

Μὴ	κλέψῃς	Μὴ	ψευδομαρτυρήσῃς	Μὴ	ἀποστερήσῃς	Τίμα
not	Do	not	Do	not	Defraud	Honour
G3361	G2813	G3361	G5576	G3361	G650	G5091

τὸν	πατέρα	σου	καὶ	τὴν	μητέρα
G3588	father	thy	and	G3588	mother
	G3962	G4675	G2532		G3384

Additional Cross-References

Romans 13:9 (Word): For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

James 2:11 (Word): For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

Luke 18:20 (Word): Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

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