

you, and there are times when the direct forthright pointing out of that sort of thing is what God will use to bring a man face to face with himself and show him his need of a Saviour, but it is not the usual way. It is not ordinarily the fact that the direct, blunt, head-on approach is the one which brings a man into a realization of his need of a saviour. The instances of that, while they do occur, are comparatively few, and Christ rarely used that method, and in that case we notice that when Jesus heard these things He said something else. He said, "Yet lackest thou one thing. You've done all the commandments. There's just one little thing you lack." What is the one thing he lacks? "Sell all that thou hast and distribute to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven and come, follow me." Just one little thing. Just give up what you've got, and come, follow Christ. This is all you need. But the man heard this, he was very sorrowful, for he was very rich, and so what happened? The man saw that in his heart was covetousness. He saw that in his heart was a love of the things of this life so great that he couldn't let loose of them in order to take hold on eternity. God showed him that deep in his heart there was something that was wrong. Commandments didn't reveal it in this case and so He used some other method to reveal to the man the fact that his heart was not settled on eternal things but that his heart was centered on something earthly. Now, of course, the Roman Catholics take this verse and they say, "All right, sell everything you have and go and join a monastery and gain eternal life," and there are Protestants who take it in that way, too. There was a young man when I was studying in Berlin, a very fine young man of Norwegian background from the United States, and he said, "There are too many people in the ministry who are grasping after things, who are trying to get more of this world's goods, who are trying to get fame and money and comfort!" He said, "The thing that one should do is to just refuse anything that is attractive!" He said, "Don't take any position that has any honor, any fame, any standing in it. Don't take any position that has any more than enough for bare subsistence." Well, I don't think that is the right approach to it. That, again, I would call the legalistic approach. It is not what you do but it is the mental attitude that counts, and I think that what the Lord wants is that our thoughts be so centered