

FRIENDSHIP NEWSLETTER

For Thai English Students

He had Everything Money Could Buy!

A story is told of a young man who was rich, had a good job, and a nice house. Even though he was still young, he had become a leader in his town, so he could tell others what to do. From what everyone could see, he looked very successful and happy.

But one day when a famous teacher came to his town, he went to see him. From what he said to the teacher, it seems that he was not happy. He had problems and needed some helpful advice.

“Teacher,” he said, “What can I do to have peace in my life? I need to know the truth.” The teacher began to ask the young man about his life. He asked if he obeyed the laws: “Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not cheat. Treat your father and your mother with respect.” Then the teacher said, “Do these things and you will have peace in your life and know the truth.”



The young man replied, “I have tried to obey all these laws since I was a young boy. What is still lacking in my life? Why don’t I have peace?”

The teacher looked at the young man and saw that he had everything the world could give him: money, a good job, and power over other’s lives. He saw he was still young and had his whole life in front of him. But he also saw the needs in the young man’s heart, and he wanted him to know the truth. He wanted him to have the peace he was looking for.

“One thing is missing in your life,” the teacher said. “Here is what you need to do: *Sell* what you have and *give* your money to the poor. Your life and heart will change and you will have real riches that will last forever. *But you cannot do this without my help*” the teacher said. “*Come and follow me. I will give you a new heart -- a new life!*”



When the young man heard the teacher’s words, he became very sad. He walked away with a very heavy heart because he was a very rich man and the teacher’s words were very difficult for him. The teacher was Jesus.

We don’t know if this young man ever received the peace Jesus promised him, because the Bible does not tell us. He already knew from experience that all his money could not buy peace. One thing we do know, he had lots to think about when he walked away from the teacher that day!



Questions:

1. What did this young man have that made his life look successful and happy?
2. What was he looking for in his life? (See the question he asked the famous teacher.)
3. What rules did the teacher ask the young man about?
4. What was the young man’s answer to the teacher’s question about keeping the rules?
5. What did the teacher see when he looked at the young man?
6. What did the teacher tell the young man to do in order to have peace and a new life?
7. How did the young man feel when he heard Jesus’ words? Why?
8. If you were the young man, what would you do?