"I'm Good"

by Wayne Goff

A common expression these days when asked if you need something is: "I'm good." In other words, "No, I don't need anything right now. I have enough."

However, with my "Bible-mentality," I cannot help but think of Jesus' response to being called: *"Good Master"* (Matthew 19:16, KJV). He said, *"Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God…"* (v. 17). What exactly did Jesus mean by this statement?

I believe Jesus was testing the one who came to Him to see if he believed that Jesus was God. The young ruler came to Jesus for some reason! But the statement stands on its own as an absolute truth: **no one is good but God**. Yet, we affirm all the time that we are "good."

The word Jesus used is the Greek word agathos, and it means "upright, honorable" in this context. And the word is used often of men! Barnabas was a good man (Acts 11:24). We are admonished as Christians to *"turn away from evil and do good"* (1 Pet. 3:11). Men are often described as *"good"* elsewhere (see Matt. 5:45; 22:10; etc.). So while men might be *"good" generally speaking*, only God is perfectly good!

"I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living" (Psalm 27:13).

"Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men!" (Psalm 31:19).

"They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, and shall sing of Your righteousness" (Psalm 145:7).

We are not good as God is good, but we are instructed to strive to become good like God: " *"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust"* (Matthew 5:44-45).

Just a little something to think about the next time someone tells you, "I'm good."

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