

WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////



This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!)

We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your LIFEgroup. Although you can review it on your own, it will be most useful to you when processed with others!

1. What are you learning about the Kingdom?
2. Why does this rich man seem like a perfect prospect? How would you have responded to him if he had come running to you?
3. Why does Jesus’ response seem so harsh? Why did He handle the man this way?
4. What was this man missing? Do you think that this is common in our society? If so, what should the church do about it?
5. What was your “best thought” from this study and how could it lead to application?



October 15 & 16, 2016 | The Difficulty of Salvation | Luke 18:18-30 | Dennis Miller, pastor

THE SCRIPTURE

Luke 18:18 A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 19 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. 20 You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’” 21 “All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said. 22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” 23 When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy. 24 Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! 25 Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” 26 Those who heard this asked, “Who then can be saved?” 27 Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.” 28 Peter said to him, “We have left all we had to follow you!” 29 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God 30 will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.”

TWO LESSONS FOR THIS SERIES:

1. The Kingdom of God is FUTURE, and yet it is PRESENT.

Luke 17:20 Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, 21 nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is in your midst.”

2. Salvation is the KEY to entering the Kingdom.

THE PERFECT PROSPECT

Luke 18:18 A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

1. He was a religious LEADER.
2. He was VERY WEALTHY (and young).
3. He was a good MORAL man.
4. He came RUNNING to Jesus and KNELT.

Mark 10:17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

5. He came to the RIGHT place.
6. He asked the RIGHT question.
7. He knew that something was MISSING in his life.

Matt. 19:20 "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"

THE PERPLEXING PRESENTATION

1. Jesus CORRECTED the prospect.

Luke 18:19 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone.

The word "good" here is *agathos* (ἀγαθός) — "of good constitution or NATURE."

2. Jesus suggested that KEEPING the LAW was the answer.

Luke 18: 20 You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'

— Note that the commandments mentioned by Jesus are the ones dealing with HUMAN relationships. The only one that Jesus didn't mention was COVETING.

— Jesus was allowing a religious leader to admit PUBLICLY that legalism doesn't WORK.

3. Then Jesus seems to SUGGEST that the way to eternal life is to get rid of one's WEALTH.

Luke 18:22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. . . .

— But only ONE thing was keeping this man from the Kingdom. He was trusting in GOD *and* MONEY.

Luke 16:13 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

4. The TRUE test of someone receiving eternal life is if they can trust and follow ONLY Jesus.

Luke 18:22 . . . Then come, follow me."

5. This man couldn't part with his riches so he WALKED away VERY sad because he was VERY rich. Jesus didn't chase him.

THE PAINFUL PRONOUNCEMENT

1. Jesus declares that it is DIFFICULT, in fact, impossible for a rich man to ENTER heaven. He uses a saying that was FAMILIAR in His culture. (Camel and needle)

Luke 18:24 Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! 25 Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

2. Those standing nearby understood EXACTLY what Jesus meant.

Luke 18:26 Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?" 27 Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."

3. Even Simon Peter UNDERSTOOD and declared that he and the other disciples had given up EVERYTHING to follow Jesus.

4. And Jesus agreed with Simon Peter and AFFIRMED that those who place Him in the right PRIORITY will have many blessings in THIS life and in the NEXT.

Luke 18:18 A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" . . . 29 "Truly I tell you," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God 30 will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life."

So . . .

1. If Jesus listed the commandments to you, which one might He OMIT?
2. Are you trusting in Jesus Christ ALONE? Does He have the top priority in your life?