

Bible Stories for Adults

The Rich Young Man

Luke 18:18-30

Opening

Gathering: What kinds of things do people put before God?

Today's Focus: Jesus pointed out that it is easy for people to love riches more than God and thereby keep themselves out of God's kingdom.

Key Verses: "One thing you lack," He said. ... "Come, follow Me." Mark 10:21

With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God. Mark 10:27

Opening Prayer

Lesson

If I Were a Rich Man (*Luke 18:18*)

How does today's story begin?

Matthew 19:16

What else did Matthew tell us about this man?

Matthew 19:22

What else do we learn about this man from Luke?

Luke 18:18

Name the Price (*Mark 10:17*)

What was this man's concern?

Mark 10:17

How sincere was his concern?

Mark 10:17

How did the man show his respect and belief that Jesus had God's truth on this matter?

Mark 10:17

Greek for *good* is *agathos* - means intrinsic goodness (vs. *kalos* meaning externally pleasing)

What's Good Enough? (*Luke 18:19*)

What was wrong about the man's question of what he should do to get eternal life?

Ephesians 2:8-9

EBC: Many Jews believed that a specific act of goodness could win eternal life

What lesson had Jesus just taught that should have made this clear?

Luke 18:15-17

How did Jesus begin to point out the error in the man's understanding?

Luke 18:19

What level of goodness does God require?

Matthew 5:48

How likely are we to be able to meet these requirements?

Romans 3:10-12, 23

So what is the purpose of God's Law if we cannot follow it to earn our way into heaven?

Romans 3:20-22

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A Checklist (*Deuteronomy 5:6-21*)

- What did the Old Testament teach about what is needed for eternal life?
Deuteronomy 30:15-16
- How did the Jews summarize the many commands, decrees and laws?
Deuteronomy 5:7, 11-12, 16-21
- How are the first three commandments even further summarized?
Deuteronomy 6:5
- How are the remaining seven commandments summarized?
Leviticus 19:18b
- Did the Jews recognize these as valid summaries of the two tables of the Ten Commandments?
Luke 10:25-28

Check the Easy Ones First (*Luke 18:20*)

- How did Jesus try to help the man start to see the futility of looking to deeds for eternal life?
Luke 18:20
- How did Matthew, writing to Jews, point out that Jesus was referring to the Second Table?
Matthew 19:17-19
- Why did Jesus begin by having the man reflect on the Second Table of the Ten Commandments?
Philippians 3:4-6
- Why else might Jesus have started with the Second Table?
1 John 4:20

Put a Check in That Box (*Luke 18:21*)

- How did the man feel about how he measured up to this list?
Luke 18:21
- Why did he qualify his statement by saying he had obeyed since he was a boy?
Luke 2:42
- Although most Jews said they obeyed these commands, what kept them from true obedience?
Matthew 5:21-22a, 27-28

One Thing You Lack (*Luke 18:22*)

- How did Jesus show the man that his external obedience to God's commands was inadequate?
Luke 18:22
- How was this pointing the man to evaluate his internal obedience to the First Table?
Luke 16:13
- Which commandment would the man be breaking if he had trouble with Jesus' instruction?
Deuteronomy 5:7
- Why did Jesus pick this test to help the man see his inability to save himself through works?
1 Timothy 6:10
- This was a difficult request. Did Jesus make it to make an example and put this man in his place?
Mark 10:21

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Choose Today Whom You Will Serve (*Luke 18:23*)

Did the man recognize his sin and inability to save himself?

Luke 18:23

Did he take this opportunity to confess his sin and turn to Jesus for salvation?

Mark 10:22

How did the man's response to Jesus' guidance fit within Jesus' parable of the sower?

Mark 4:14, 18-19

What had Jesus described earlier to be required for someone to receive eternal life?

Mark 8:34-37

What rich man did Jesus encounter soon afterwards who had a similar opportunity?

Luke 19:2

How did Zacchaeus respond to his choice between God and money?

Luke 19:8

Did Jesus recognize his response of faith?

Luke 19:9-10

A Universal Problem (*Luke 18:24*)

How did Jesus respond to the man's reluctance to turn his devotion from his wealth to God?

Luke 18:24

How did the disciples respond to what they had seen and what Jesus had said?

Mark 10:24a

Why were the disciples amazed at His words?

Job 1:9-10

Did Jesus mean that those who are not rich won't have this problem of putting money before God?

Mark 10:24b

Eye of a Needle (*Luke 18:25-27*)

How did Jesus go on to explain that it is impossible for someone who trusts in riches to be saved?

Luke 18:25

"Eye of the Needle" Gate added to Jerusalem in medieval times just too small for a camel

Did the disciples understand the impossibility that Jesus was trying to convey?

Luke 18:26

Dwight Pentecost: *If the rich whom God loved and blessed and with whom He was pleased could not enter the kingdom, what chance was there for the multitudes?*

How did the disciples' question help lead them to the whole point Jesus was trying to make?

Mark 10:27

What About Us? (*Luke 18:28*)

Did the often slow-to-learn disciples catch what Jesus was saying?

Luke 18:28

Was Peter bragging and claiming they had done better than the rich man?

Matthew 19:27

What had Peter meant by saying that they had left everything to follow Jesus?

Matthew 4:18-22

Matthew 9:9

How had Jesus earlier taught these disciples a stronger lesson in trusting in Him and the Father?

Mark 6:7-10

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Rewards in Heaven (*Matthew 19:28-29*)

Would there be any special reward for the apostles who had left all to follow Jesus?

Matthew 19:28

Did John get a glimpse of this in the revelation he was given of the end times?

Revelation 20:4

Did Jesus only offer rewards in His kingdom to the apostles?

Matthew 19:29

Leave Your Home (*Luke 18::29-30*)

Is Jesus saying that we are to neglect or desert our families in order to receive eternal life?

Matthew 10:37-39

How are we to deal with non-Christian family members who threaten our relationship with Christ?

Matthew 10:34-36

How did Luke word the seriousness of putting Jesus before even the members of our family?

Luke 14:26

A Cost of Leaving (*Mark 10:29-31*)

Besides putting Jesus before our own family, what else did Mark include as a cost of discipleship?

Mark 10:29-30

How was this leading the disciples to better understand what Jesus was next going to tell them?

Mark 10:32-34

What is our promise as we are persecuted for His sake?

Romans 8:17

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How sincerely do I desire God's kingdom?
(*Mark 10:17, 52; Matthew 6:33; 8:19-22; 19:27; Luke 5:28; 13:23-30; John 21:19-22*)
2. How well do I know God's commands?
(*Luke 18:20; Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 6:1-9; 30:15-16; Psalm 119:97-105; Proverbs 3:1-6; Ezra 7:10*)
3. How well do I follow God's commands?
(*Luke 18:21; Exodus 12:24; Lev. 18:4-5; 1 Samuel 15:22; Matthew 5:17-48; Romans 3:10-24; 6*)
4. What do I love in my life that threatens my relationship with God?
(*Luke 18:22-30; Deut. 5:7; Judges 11:30-40; Matthew 6:24; 10:32-39; 19:27-30; Mark 8:34-37*)
5. What do I treasure?
(*Luke 18:22-25; 12:16-21, 32-34; Prov. 23:4-5; Matthew 6:19-21; 1 Timothy 6:10, 19; Hebrews 13:5*)