

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

True Discipleship

Luke 18: 18-34

Introduction: Have you ever wondered how to answer the question, "How can I have eternal life?" or, more likely "How can I get into heaven?" The good news is that Jesus Himself has actually answered this very question. We find the story and the answer in Luke 18: 18-34.

I. A Wealthy Ruler Asks a Question: What shall I do to inherit eternal life?

- A. We get some immediate insight into Jesus' answer when He says, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone."
 - 1. Isaiah 53: 6
 - 2. Jeremiah 17: 9
 - 3. Romans 3: 10-18Jesus is already alluding to the idea that no one can have eternal life on the basis of something they do
- B. Keeping the Ten Commandments — a theoretical means of salvation
 - 1. One of the most effective ways to aid someone in seeing their need for salvation outside of themselves is to help them see that they have sinned.
 - 2. It is necessary to see oneself as a sinner who is hopelessly lost in order for trusting Christ as Savior to make sense
- C. When the wealthy ruler failed to see his problem, Jesus goes to the heart of idolatry
 - 1. People who grow up in church and in a religious culture often do not see themselves as truly vile and evil in nature.
 - 2. Many people feel they have kept the Ten Commandments — but it is based on a very superficial understanding, interpretation, and obedience
 - 3. Jesus actually begins with the First Commandment and probes the heart to reveal idolatry

II. Salvation and Eternal Life Require Absolute Surrender

- A. The problem of wealth
- B. A sad departure
- C. Peter's testimony and Jesus' response

III. The God of the Impossible

- A. As the disciples observe this exchange and listen to Jesus' replies, they draw the conclusion that no one can be saved
- B. They are precisely correct — in terms of human effort there is no salvation; we can never be good enough
- C. With God all things are possible. Jesus foreshadows His atonement

Conclusion: Salvation is really very simple, but it isn't easy! There is a cost: the cost of sin and punishment paid by Jesus, and the personal cost of genuine repentance and full surrender. Have you counted the cost?

A ruler questioned Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments, 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." When Jesus heard this, He said to him, "One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me. "But when he had heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. And Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." They who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But He said, "The things that are impossible with people are possible with God." Peter said, "Behold, we have left our own homes and followed You." And He said to them, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come, eternal life." Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be handed over to the Gentiles,

