

Right Place, Right Time

Luke 18:18-30 (rich ruler); 35-43 (blind beggars)

Mark 10:17-22 (rich ruler)

Matthew 19:16-30 (rich ruler); 20:29-34 (blind beggars)

Read Luke 18:18-24

I. The Young Rich Ruler

- **Matthew 19:20** states that he was “young”. Luke’s account states he was a “certain ruler.” All three accounts point to him being rich, with earthly possessions.
- He was in the right place, right time, in **Mark’s account (10:17)** he is said to come running and kneeling in front of Jesus.
- No one stops or impedes the young ruler from coming to Jesus. He asks Jesus a question. Have you ever listened to some of the questions asked to the president? Many of the questions are multiple questions/topics in one. The question the young ruler asked had multiple tentacles.
- **Luke 18:18, “Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”**
- **Matthew 19:16, “Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?”**
- He came to the right place, at the right time and to the right person to ask about eternal life.
- He asks, “what can I do, or what more can I do?”
- Jesus does the Jesus thing; he answers a question with a question. Jesus does this to challenge the young rulers’ heart. Until Jesus softens and opens a man’s heart, the man cannot/will not hear him.
- **Verse 19, “Why callest thou me good? None is good, save one, that is, God.”**

Psalms 86:5, For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.”

- Jesus challenges the young ruler heart. “Who do you believe I am?” If God is the only one good, doesn’t that make Jesus God? It matters who you believe Jesus is. He is either Lord, God, or he is liar.
- **Verse 20-22**, Jesus then challenges what he believes about the law and himself.
- Jesus is not telling us to keep the commandments. Remember, Jesus knows the heart of man. He knows this man is trusting in his belief that he kept the law. The first 4 commandments deal with our relationship with God. The last 6 deal with our relationship with others.
- Jesus instructs him to sell all that he has and give to the poor. Jesus does not suggest what nonprofit, or to give it to his ministry. He says give to the poor; your treasure will be in heaven. Jesus also says, “come, follow me.” Jesus was asking for a total surrender!
- Jesus summarized the 10 commandments, **“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”** and **“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”**
- Jesus was showing the rich young ruler he had not “kept” the law since he was younger.

- God gave us the commandments, the law as a moral guide, but he also gave it to prove nobody could keep all of it.
- **Verse 23-24**, the cost was too much for the young rich ruler. He went away, “very sorrowful.”
- The young ruler already had a god, his wealth.
- He was in the right place at the right time, in front of the right person and he walked away spiritually empty.
- The young rich ruler was lost and confused, he wanted to know what more he could do.
- He said in **Matthew 19:16**, **“Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?”**

II. The Blind Beggars

- **Read Luke 18:35-43**, Luke one refers to one blind beggar, Matthew says there was two blind beggars.
- These blind beggars were in the right place at the right time. In both Luke and Matthews 20:29-34 accounts, Jesus was passing by, but they were not given the same access to Jesus as the young rich ruler. They were told to be quiet; they did not they yelled louder.
- **“Thou son of David, have mercy on me, us”** Their cries of desperation caught the attention of Jesus.
- They were persistent like the widow was with the judge earlier in the chapter.
- These beggars also cried out with the same humble heart as the publican in the temple.
- These blind men came with desperation and total dependence, blind faith in Jesus as their only hope.
- **Verse 40-41**, They are brought before Jesus and he asks, “What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee?” The blind beggar’s response, “Lord, that I may receive my sight.”
- The contrasting stories demonstrate Jesus’ deity, only God can know the heart of man. The young rich rulers heart asked, “What more can I do to earn eternal life?” The blind beggars heart condition caused Jesus to ask, “What would you like me to do for you?”
- **Luke 18:43**, says, they “received sight, and followed him, glorifying God.” What a perfect picture of what happens when we trust in Jesus and become born-again. We “receive sight”, given to us by the Holy Spirit coming and living in us. We “follow him”, the rest of our lives, we glorify God with the transformation of our lives, and it draws people in to hear.
- Just as the publican in the temple, earlier in the chapter, these blind beggars went away justified, right with God.

1. Nothing in this world, not even success/fame/riches can satisfy our deepest need.

- Despite all his (young rich ruler) wealth, success, and influence, there was a hunger in his life riches and success could not fill. He had an itch in the bottom of his heart all his money could not scratch. When he heard Jesus would be coming through his area, he ran to meet him in hopes Jesus could help him experience real life.
- The Bible teaches there is nothing wrong with money—in fact, wealth is a gift from God. But when your possessions start possessing you, you are in trouble.

- Money is a great servant, but it is a lousy master. The Bible says the **love** of money is the root of all kinds of evil. It never fully satisfies. It is like drinking salt water—it only makes you thirstier for more.

Haggai 1:5-6, Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: “Consider your ways! 6 “You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes.” NKJV

- Our deepest need is forgiveness and a relationship with God. To me there is no worse feeling than when I have hurt someone and broken the relationship. All I can think about is how to make it right.
- Where man has limited amounts of forgiveness, God is limitless. What is impossible with man, is possible with God.

2. It is GOOD to seek Jesus for eternal life!

- The rich ruler is an example of someone who almost did everything right. He came to Jesus as a young man, he ran to the right place at the right time, he had the right attitude, he even called Jesus, “good” recognizing Jesus position.
- The young ruler asked, “What can I do or what more can I do?” Jesus’ answer back was eternal life with him, in heaven is found in what has already been done.
- **Luke 18:26, “Who can be saved?”**
- **Verse 27, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”**
- The only way to experience eternal life in heaven is to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior.

3. There is room for only ONE God in your life!

- Who is the God of your life?
- The young rich ruler’s god was his wealth, success, and the lifestyle he lived.
- Jesus states that we are love God with all our being and to love your neighbor as yourself.
- It would be easy for us to judge the young rich ruler or others who chase after worldly riches. But we must be careful, if we say Jesus is the God of our life; can that be witnessed? Or are we living in habitual sinfulness, full of pride, filled with anger, bitterness, hatred, and entitled?

4. It is IMPOSSIBLE to be good enough!

Romans 3:19-20, Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become [e]guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. NKJV

Romans 3:23, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

James 2:10, For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

- There is no way humanly possible to earn or be good enough to get to heaven.

- Isaiah 64:6 says, But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

5. What is IMPOSSIBLE for us, God DONE for us!

**1 John 5:11-12, And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.
12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.**

Romans 3:23, For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:8, But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. NKJV

- God specializes in the impossible.
- The point of the encounter with the Rich Young Ruler is that none of us are able to merit salvation. What we could not do for ourselves, God did for us.