

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF MAN

LUKE CHAPTER 18:18-30

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN? – PART 2

*THE HUMANITY AND DIVINITY OF JESUS CHRIST,
THE SON OF GOD, SON OF MAN, SAVOIR OF ALL MANKIND*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Heaven, Self-Righteousness, 10 Commandments, Faith

the audience wasn't all together hostile toward Jesus Christ, He had just finished off praying and pronouncing blessings upon the little children as was the custom. Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem!

Luke 18:18-30

Now a **certain** ruler asked Him, saying, “**Good Teacher**, what shall I do to **inherit** eternal life?” :19 So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but one, *that is*, God. :20 You know the commandments: “*Do not commit adultery,*’ “*Do not murder,*’ “*Do not steal,*’ “*Do not bear false witness,*’ “*Honor your father and your mother.*” :21 And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.” :22 So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and **come, follow Me.**” :23 But when he heard this, he became very **sorrowful**, for he was very **rich** :24 And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! :25 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.” :26 And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?” :27 But He said, “The things which are **impossible** with men are **possible** with God.” :28 Then Peter said, “See, we have left all and followed You.” :29 So He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, :30 who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life.”

HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN?

Mark's Gospel Parallel Account States...

Mark 10:1

Then He arose from there and came to the region of Judea by the other side of the Jordan. And multitudes gathered to Him again, and as He was accustomed, He **taught** *(gave instruction, direction)* them

Directions from time to time, all of us will, in some way consult a map for directions. it could be that we look to "The directions inside the box" before operating.

Regardless, Directions are as Common to Us as the Clothes on our Backs. But how often do you consult the directions? or do we even follow the directions?

we know from following the directions that.

"This certain Ruler" is none other than the man known in the Bible as the

"Rich Young Ruler" He's declared "**rich**" in

Mark 10:22

he had great **possessions**.

he's declared "**young**" in

Matthew 19:20

And the **young** man...

he's declared "**ruler**" in

Luke 18:18

Now a certain **ruler**

HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN?

1.) Thou shalt not get there by being good enough vs.18-21

1a.) Good enough isn't possible enough vs. 18-19

:18 Now a **certain** ruler asked Him, saying, “**Good Teacher**, what shall I do to **inherit** eternal life?” :19 So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but one, *that is*, God.

Setting the Scene / The Parallel Account

Mark 10:17

Now as He was going out on the road, one came **running**, **knelt** before Him, and **asked** Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”

make no mistake about it. this man was a faithful Jew and understood his place in his culture. He saw in Jesus Christ a profound existence that was altogether different from any man he has ever seen or heard before.

But the young man recognizes something very “impossible” about Jesus Christ.

Verse 18-19

Out of His Mouths Comes “**Good Teacher**”

In first century Judaism, it was blasphemous to ascribe the word “Good” to anyone other than the Lord God.

to say that a man was “Good” was to say that a man was as **Good as God**.

1 Chronicles 16:34

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever.

Psalm 34:8

Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good; Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!

Psalm 73:1

Truly God *is* good

Nahum 1:7

The LORD *is* good,

Verse 19

So, Jesus said to him,
“Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God.

Human “Goodness” isn’t enough, it isn’t possible!

“Young man, you know that only *God* can be *Good*, yet you called me *Good*. then the question is, Do you believe that I am *God*?”

Jesus Will Always Attempt to “Draw Faith Out” of a Man or Woman.

NOT BY BEING GOOD ENOUGH

1b.) Good enough isn’t good enough vs. 20

You know **the commandments**: “*Do not commit adultery,*’ “*Do not murder,*’ “*Do not steal,*’ “*Do not bear false witness,*’ “*Honor your father and your mother.*”

Notice with me That

the commandments which Jesus sites are the “**Horizontal Laws**” meaning that they are the 5 of the 10 Commandments that deal with “Our Fellow Man”
– They are The “Man-Directed” Laws.
Jesus Quotes None of the “**Vertical Laws**” here.

What’s Not Here Speaks Louder Than What Is.

He Had No Personal Relationship with the God of the Commandments.

Galatians 2:16

know this that a man is not justified by the performance of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

NOT BY BEING GOOD ENOUGH

1c.) Good enough isn’t true enough vs. 21

:21 And he said, “**All these things I have kept from my youth.**”

(This is a very good man according to human standards and **Outward Performances**)

So how can a man be right, acceptable before God?

Romans 3:19-22

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 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. **:21** But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, **:22** even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference.

*“But Pastor Jack - I’m Really a Good Person – To Know Me is to Love Me”
Isn’t that the mantra of all the cults and legalists today?”*

1 John 1:8,10

If we say (because it is our doctrine of self) that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us... **:10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

This Man’s “Good Life” wasn’t True.

The Truth to This Man was.

I’m doing really good, and I think I have been really moral, religious, and right-on.

The Truth to God is.

what’s going on down inside of your heart and mind is what I’m interested in.

Before we leave this, Notice with Me...

the man has already made a very powerful admission here.

Verse 18

:18 ...what shall I do to **inherit** eternal life?”

this very good, religious, decent, moral, good citizen, Jewish man was very aware that he did not possess eternal life nor was he sure of his standing with God.

Looking at Jesus Christ Face to Face,
This Man's Star Began to Fade in Comparison. - -
He Knew He Didn't Have the Assurance of Eternal Life

HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN?

2.) Thou shalt not get there by being rich enough vs. 22-25

2a.) Rich enough cannot pay the bills enough vs. 22

So, when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "**You still lack one thing.** Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and **come, follow Me.**"

The Parallel Account

Mark 10:21

Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack:

**You still lack one thing...
this must have cut the man to the core**

"You're lacking one thing!!!

lack lei÷pw **leipo**, *li'-po*; a primary verb.
to leave out or empty. to come up short. to run out of what's needed
or to be unable to make the payment.

*"Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not bear false witness,"
'Honor your father and your mother.'*
(The horizontal "5")

Consider the 10 commandments as ten links in a chain.
and the chain is floating between heaven and earth.
it's vertical and horizontal – like a cross – pointing in two directions.

James 2:10

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just **one point** is guilty of breaking all of it.

"You Are the Weakest Link"

C-1 // Exodus 20:3 = God thing = vertical law

"You shall have no other gods before Me.

C-2 // Exodus 20:4 = God thing = vertical law

"You shall not make for yourself a idols

C-3 // Exodus 20:7

"You shall not take the name
of the LORD your God in vain. = **God thing = vertical law**

C-4 // Exodus 20:8

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. = **God thing = vertical law**

C-5 // Exodus 20:12 = man thing = horizontal law

"Honor your father and your mother.

C-6 // Exodus 20:13 = man thing = horizontal law

"You shall not murder.

C-7 // Exodus 20:14 = man thing = horizontal law

"You shall not commit adultery.

C-8 // Exodus 20:15 = man thing = horizontal law

"You shall not steal.

C-9 // Exodus 20:16 = man thing = horizontal law

"You shall not bear false witness.

C-10 // Exodus 20:17 = God thing = vertical law

"You shall not covet

What you lack is
the 10th commandment - - and the 1st

can you imagine what is going on inside the heart of Jesus Christ?

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord.... not willing that any should perish but that all should come to (a change of mind) repentance.

Inside Himself - Jesus Must Have Been Cheering This Man On!

NOT BY BEING RICH ENOUGH

2b.) Rich enough cannot make you happy enough vs. 23-24

:23 But when he heard this, he became very **sorrowful**, for he was **very rich**. **:24** And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How **hard** it is for those who have riches to **enter** the kingdom of God!"

James 2:5

Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not **chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith** and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

True Story

I met a man not long ago who loved the Lord Jesus and has served Him for most of his life. Well, this man was working on a project that he had created, he finished it and sold it - - when the deal was done, they handed him a check for \$80 million dollars. – he's still the same man today, unchanged by it, but changing millions of people with it...

1 Timothy 6:10

For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

This Rich, Young, Ruler

"Almost Becomes a Christian" He was a **"Pre-Believer"**

He had religion, He had faith, He had met Jesus Christ Face to Face, yet he was "farther" away from heaven than any other man on the planet.

because salvation was standing right in front of him
and he would not reach out to take it.

People have Often Asked

"What is the unpardonable sin, what sin is it that God will not forgive?"

This is It

This man Wanted Jesus to Be in Second Place.
if Jesus could just be in my life, around my life rather than “being my life”.

“Can’t You Settle for Second Place in My Heart Jesus?”

Because the Very Object of Salvation Itself was Standing In front of Him
and he was not willing to accept the terms.

NOT BY BEING RICH ENOUGH

2c.) Rich enough cannot get things done enough vs. 25

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.”

“The Needles Eye”

Ivor Powell, “Luke’s Thrilling Gospel” pg. 386

“Once the main gates of Jerusalem were shut tight against nighttime marauders and marketer’s, a camelier had been known to try his effort at getting his camel and goods through the lesser pedestrian gates that flanked each of the great gates of the city. The load was removed and had to be carried by the camelier. The camel had to be contorted and then would need to crawl thru. it was not impossible, just extremely difficult – like a rich man who loves his riches more than God.”

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. **:18** Let *them* do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, **:19** storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

We Need to Stop Carrying Stuff Around That No Longer Matters.

#1

what are you hanging on to?

#2

why is it so important to you?

#3

can you live without it?

HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN?

3.) Thou shalt not get there by being faithful enough. vs.26-30

3a.) Faith enough in Jesus Christ saves you vs. 26-27

:26 And those who heard it said, “**Who then can be saved?**” :27 But Jesus said, “The things which are **impossible** with men are **possible** with God.”

Verse 26a

those who heard **it**

Verse 24 Was the Great “It” that caused the problem.

Verse 24b-25

:24... “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!

“The things which are **impossible** with men are **possible** with God.” (Are only possible)

**It’s Impossible for you - to get you - to heaven.
YOU CAN’T GET THERE FROM HERE!**

John 3:1-10

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. :2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” :3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” :4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” :5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. :6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. :7 Do not marvel that I said to you, “You must be born again.’ :8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” :9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?” :10 Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?”

Impossible!!! – Yes, it is, Unless “God”

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace, you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God, :9* not of works, lest anyone should boast.

NOT BY BEING FAITHFUL ENOUGH

3b.) Faith enough in Jesus Christ qualifies you vs. 28

Then Peter said, “**See, we have left all and followed You.**”

It’s that “**All**” that catches my eye. **See**, the last time I checked with my Bible, there wasn’t much that Peter had left. There was a boat maybe two, there was a torn net and a O’ yes, a floundering fishing company... (there was his mother-in-law also)

It’s a Privilege to Follow Jesus Christ

with all we are and are not and with all that we have and have not.

Galatians 2:20-21

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. **:21** I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness *comes* through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

John 6:27-29

Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.” **:28** Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” **:29** Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

3c.) Faith enough in Jesus Christ rewards you vs. 29-30

:29 So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, **for the sake of the kingdom of God, :30** who shall not **receive** many times more in this present time, and in the age to come - - eternal life.”

church, check your pulse, why?

because every heaven bound Christian is willing
to have their lives turned upside down, right side up, inside out for God's glory!

Philippians 3:7-9

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. :8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ :9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.

HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN?

**As we close with our thanks to God in
worship of Him.**

Come Forward for Prayer Right Now

**if you and I have never met before or if
you're visiting with us today or if you're
a real-radio listener, then please, I
would love to meet you near the fountain
in the courtyard**

End of Study