

# GROWING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS (LUKE 18:18-30) LESSON 2

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THE EXPERIENCE BIBLE STUDY

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## SERIES FOCUS

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1. The primary focus of this series of teachings is to ***stimulate*** acts of faith, based upon the faith (trust) we have placed in God through Jesus.
2. To ***redefine*** our understanding of faith and how crucial faith is to the realization of God's promises.
3. To ***deepen*** our awareness of what it means to be a disciple.

## TEXTUAL CONTEXT (VS.15-30)

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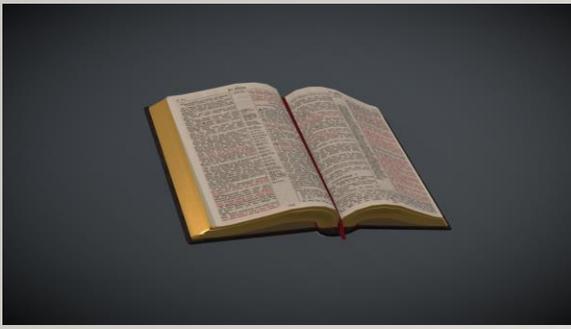
1. This section focuses on the kingdom's ***reversals of conventional wisdom and the radical demands Jesus places on all who seek to enter the kingdom of God or gain eternal life.***
2. This is a continual ***redefining*** of faith, discipleship & righteousness (one's right standing with **God**)



## TEXTUAL HIGHLIGHTS (VS.18-30)

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1. The question raised by the rich ruler addresses the ***character of righteousness*** – his question assumed that the hope of eternal life depends on what one does or may fail to do.
2. This questioning reveals the ***tension*** that existed within the community over the hope of an afterlife.
3. The verb translated "***inherit***" places the rulers' hope in the context of God's promise of an inheritance to the descendants of Abraham.



## TEXTUAL HIGHLIGHTS

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1. Jesus uses the moment to make a ***theological point*** - "only God is truly good" (vs. 19) after being called "good teacher" by the ruler who sees the piety and virtue of Jesus.

2. Jesus said "only God is truly good" as a way of reflecting the man's attention back to God – ***God is the source of all goodness, the only one worthy of worship.***

## TEXTUAL HIGHLIGHTS

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3. The presence of verse 20 challenges the ruler's understanding of Jesus' ability to ***offer more wisdom***.
4. Jesus' response (vs. 19-20) points to God's ***exclusive sovereignty & to the foundational importance of God's covenant with Israel*** – for Luke, the new is not a departure from the old but an extension and completion of what God has already been doing human history.

## TEXTUAL "RUB" (VS.22)

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1. Jesus responds by saying "***there is still one thing you haven't done. Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will make treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.***"

2. These 4 imperatives offer no explanation or elaboration because they cut straight to the heart of the matter – Jesus implies that the ruler's treasure is ***in his possessions*** rather than his desire to serve God and God's poor.

# Money Matters



## KEY POINT (VS.22)

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Our priorities and commitments cannot be divided – either we serve God or we pursue wealth!

Scripture Reference: "***No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.***" (Luke 16:13)



## THE MAN'S RESPONSE (VS.23)

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1. The man's investments in his possession prevents him from responding to the imperatives of Jesus – "**he became very sad**" which indicates the **thorny** condition of his heart. *"The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity."* (Luke 8:14 NLT)

2. He will sacrifice his "treasure in heaven" for what he already has



## THE TRAGEDY IN THE TEXT (VS.24-25)

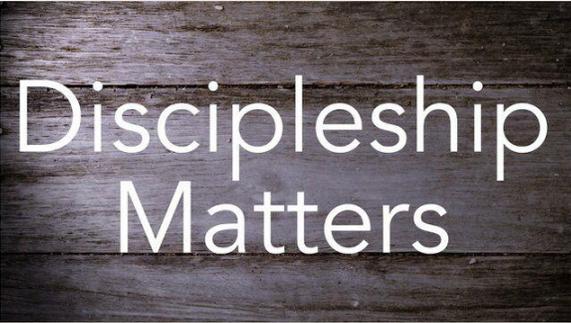
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1. Both Jesus & the ruler are sad and for the same reason – ***they both realize that the man's wealth has hindered him from entering the kingdom*** (the rulership of God – not locational but relational)
- 2, The man can't bring himself to ***surrender*** and Jesus can't overcome or ignore the man's response – ***the man is exercising his free will and God will not force the free to make the right decisions in life.***  
Jesus can't help him any further...

## KEY TAKE-AWAY (VS.30)

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Jesus assures the disciple through this exchange that ***rewards of discipleship exist in the present and the future***. Through God's strength, the ***faithful*** receive a bountiful reward – the experience of fellowship with God in the present and eternal life in the future.



Discipleship  
Matters

# GIVING

3

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# ALL THINGS TBC

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# Let's Pray!

## PRAYER

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Jehovah Jireh, the LORD our Provider. Every good and perfect gift comes from above and tonight, we **surrender** ourselves to Your sovereignty over our lives. **Soften** our hearts so that we can give your Word room to grow us into maturity. **Forgive** us when our possessions became our gods and we were unwilling to trust you. **Give** us the grace to now move into a deeper walk of faith with you. **Cancel** our fears as we commit, or even recommit, ourselves to Your desires. In Jesus name, Amen.