

Luke 18:18-30 Discussion Questions

1. Take a look at what happened just before this scene (vv. 15-17). What was the point of that passage?

2. The question in v. 18 is so ironic and interesting in light of the point of vv.15-17. Let's see why.

a. How is the person asking the question in v. 18 identified? What do we know about him?

b. What does his question reveal about his attitude towards himself, Jesus, and salvation.

c. How about the words "do" and "inherit"? Are those consistent? Do you do something to earn an inheritance?

d. What does v. 21 reveal about the way he views himself?

e. Jesus had just finished explaining that in order to enter the kingdom you need to receive the kingdom from a place of recognized dependence and humility. How does the ruler measure up to this requirement?

f. What areas of your life are you currently approaching with an attitude or approach of self-sufficiency instead of dependence upon the Lord?

3. Jesus response in vv. 19-20 essentially poses two questions to the ruler. First, how do you define "good"? Second, how do you think you measure up?

a. What sin does Jesus expose with his question in v. 22?

b. Does Jesus' invitation to sell all that we have and follow him apply to us today? Are we supposed to do that? Why or why not?

4. What does the ruler's sadness in v. 23 reveal about him? What does it teach us about what it takes to follow Jesus and inherit eternal life?

a. Are you currently following Jesus?

b. What have you had to leave behind?

c. What is he calling you to leave behind right now?

5. In vv. 24-27, Jesus makes the point that it is impossible for the men to save themselves.

a. Why does he use the rich person as an example of this?

b. How do you define "rich"?

c. How do you know if riches are keeping you from the kingdom?

d. How do we follow Jesus with our money?

6. The passage ends with a promise by Jesus for those who have left things behind for Jesus. What is the promise and what does it mean?

a. What have you had to leave behind to follow Jesus?

b. For those who have left things behind, how has God fulfilled this promise in your life?