BIBLE DISCOVERY

Get more out of the message



LUKE: Cost of Discipleship

Luke 18:18-30

We're diving back into the Gospel of Luke. After nine chapters introducing us to Jesus and His call, Luke now takes us with Him on the road to Jerusalem (Luke 9-19). Along the way, we'll hear some of Jesus' most famous teachings and stories, as He shows us what it truly costs to follow Him and why following Him is worth everything.

WATCH: YouTube or Website

The Big Idea

(What is the author's point?)

Entering God's upside-down Kingdom is not achieved through our own goodness, but through dependence on God's divine grace as we surrender every area of our lives to follow Jesus, trusting that what is impossible for us is possible with God.

Why It Matters

(Why is this relevant to us?)

Hearing that, we must enter the Kingdom like a child prompts us to self-examine, as the ruler does. The ruler assumes that eternal life depends on doing something. Jesus' question, "Why do you call me good?" exposes this assumption and points the ruler to who Jesus truly is. When Jesus says, "Come, follow me," He is inviting us to discipleship. Discipleship transforms us in every area of our lives until we look more like Jesus. We are radically transformed from who we used to be. What is declared hard in verse 24 becomes impossible in verse 25, moving us from human good to divine grace. We cannot transform ourselves; only God's grace can, demonstrated on the cross. Jesus' words were meant to stir something in us. This passage isn't just about possessions, but it is about possessions because following Jesus requires our whole lives, including what we have. God wants all that we are and have for His glory and our good. While following Jesus requires surrender and sacrifice, He promises a new family, community, provision and belonging found among God's people, along with the ultimate promise of eternal life.

Good to Know

(What are some helpful insights into this passage?)

This passage comes immediately after Jesus teaches that we must receive the Kingdom of God like a child (18:15-17). This may have prompted the ruler's question.

The ruler's question is closely connected to a similar question asked earlier in Luke. In Luke 10:25, a lawyer asks Jesus, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Both men approach Jesus with a question about what they must do. Jesus uses each conversation to expose what lies beneath the question and redirect them toward what it means to follow Him truly.

Wealth is a recurring theme in Luke. Jesus warns against allowing possessions to become our source of security or identity (Luke 12:33-34). His command to sell everything and give to the poor exposes what is keeping this particular ruler from wholehearted discipleship.

Jesus uses the image of a camel going through "the eye of a needle" (v. 25) to show how difficult it is for the wealthy to enter the Kingdom of God. This vivid image of impossibility points us to the truth that the Kingdom requires dependence upon God.

The passage continues Luke's recurring theme of the upside-down nature of the Kingdom of God, a repeated phrase in Luke 18:18-30. Throughout Luke, Jesus reverses ordinary assumptions about status, success, wealth and power.



THIS WEEK'S
Bible Discovery Author
Jen Wojtysiak

Group Guide

Following the series with your group?

- Start with some **icebreaker questions**.
- Read the passage together before you dive in.
- Share any insights from the message. Use the questions below to get your conversation started.

Conversation Starters

1. Read verses 18-19 again. It seems like the ruler is asking the "right" question. Why does Jesus respond this way? (See Matt. 16:13-16)

2. What does the ruler's response in verse 23 reveal about his heart and posture?

3. Jesus is challenging His listeners to surrender their "one thing." What is He calling you to surrender today?

4. What does verse 27 communicate about the ability to surrender?

5. This passage begins with a reminder that we must rightly know who Jesus is, and then it ends with a call to surrender. How do these go hand in hand?

Prayer

Jesus, thank you for showing us that you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Help us to give our full selves to you, trusting you to help us sacrifice and surrender for your glory and our good. Amen.

Looking for more prayer opportunities?
Click **here** to be notified about ongoing DCC prayer needs.
Click **here** to send in a prayer request.