

LUKE 18:18-43

REVIEW...

- **LUKE 17:20-37 - THE KINGDOM OF GOD...**
 - The Pharisees asked Jesus when the Kingdom would come - Conquering King...
 - Jesus told them the Kingdom of God is not a country - Jesus came to conquer sin!
 - Jesus then gave three signs to the disciples - rapture of the church...
 - Do not be like Lot's wife - do not look back - Jesus will come when you least expect it...
- **LUKE 18:1-17 - WHILE WE WAIT FOR JESUS' RETURN...**
 - We are going to face hardship / trials - and be tempted to loose heart / give up...
 - 1st - To overcome we need to keep our eyes on Jesus - by being consistent in prayer...
 - Parable of the unrighteous judge - even he gave in because of the widow's persistence...
 - How much more will our father in heaven answer when we come to Him in prayer!
 - 2nd - Humble in prayer - the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax collector...
 - The Pharisee saw himself as better than others - talk about his two good works...
 - He prayed with himself - his pride and refusal to admit his sin separated him from God
 - The Tax collector humbly saw himself as THE sinner - and went away forgiven
 - 3rd - Childlike in prayer - parents brought their little children to Jesus to bless them...
 - Jesus told the disciples not to forbid them - they were the key the Kingdom of Heaven...
 - If we want to be heard by God with our prayers - we must be like little children!

ON THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM... (3 THINGS)

- **1ST - WHAT GOOD THING MUST I DO... VS. 18-30 (4 THINGS)**
 - 1st - Jesus and the disciples were on the road to Jerusalem... vs. 18-19
 - A man came up to Jesus - 'Good Teacher' - he was sincerely looking for answers...
 - He wanted to know what 'Good' thing he should do to inherit eternal life...
 - He had the right question – and he went to the right person to get the right answer...
 - **If you want to know what 'Good' you must do to go to heaven – here's the answer...**
 - Jesus first had to answer his question with a question... vs. 19
 - In order for Jesus to answer the question – He had to define what 'Good' meant...
 - 'Good' is a comparative term - you have to know what you are comparing it to...
 - The definition Jesus gives for 'Good' – **'No one is Good but One – that is God!'**
 - Jesus definition of Good was God Himself – now that presents a problem...
 - **Most people think they are 'Good' – few if any would say they are 'Bad' people...**
 - **Yet what or who is it that we compare ourselves to – 'Good' compared to...**
 - **If the definition of 'Good' was being better than – my neighbor / or a murderer - OK**
 - **Since the definition of 'Good' is God – that means I am not 'Good' - Matthew 5:48**
 - **Romans 3:10 – "As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one...'"**
 - 2nd - Proving we are not 'Good' – by looking at the Law of God... vs. 20-23
 - Jesus gave the rich man 5 of the 10 Commandments – **Exodus 20:12-17**
 - Do not Murder / commit adultery / steal / lie / and honor your Father & Mother...

- Given not to prove this man was good - but to show him he was a sinner...
- The commandments of God were never meant to make us 'Good'...
- They were given so that we would know we were NOT 'Good'
- **Galatians 3:24** – “Therefore the law was our teacher to bring us to Christ...”
- Without the Law we would not know sin - we would not know God's standard!
- But like a mirror that shows you how you look – but cannot change your appearance
- The Law shows us how 'Bad' we are – but cannot help make us 'Good'...
- Realizing that is the Key to Heaven – because now we know we need help!
- The rich man was thrilled – he said - 'I have kept these laws from my youth'...
 - Notice that Jesus does not argue that point with him...
 - It would almost seem that he was 'Good' enough to inherit heaven...
 - Jesus looking at him – loved him - **Mark 10:21** – ‘One thing you lack...’
 - Sell all you have and give it to the poor (*treasure in heaven*) and Follow Me!
 - The 1st commandment - you shall have no other god's before Me - **Exodus 20:3**
 - There is nothing wrong with having stuff – it's when the stuff has us...
 - Only if we put our stuff before Jesus – do we need to reprioritize – put Jesus first!
 - Jesus command was not just to sell the stuff and give it to the poor - follow Jesus!
 - He went away sorry – because he had a lot of money (*multi-millionaire*)
 - The man wanted to go to heaven – but he had another god he wanted more...
 - The rich man only broke one law of God (*at least recorded here*)...
 - **James 2:10** – “Whoever keeps the law, yet stumble in one point, is guilty of all.”
 - So how many sins does it take to keep us out of heaven - just one...
 - Just a little sin – a white lie – taking a little rice (*our neighbor has extra...*)
- 3rd - It is almost impossible for a rich man to be saved... vs. 24-27
 - The analogy of a Camel through the eye of a needle (2 views)...
 - 1st view – The eye of the needle was a gate in the wall of the city of Jerusalem...
 - According to tradition the 'Eye of the needle' was a very small gate...
 - So small that the only way for a Camel to enter was to take off it's 'Stuff'...
 - The idea being the only way for a rich man to enter heaven...
 - Is for him to get rid of all his riches so he might fit through Heaven's gate
 - Sounds nice – but it turns out there never was such a gate in Jerusalem...
 - 2nd view – Put a Camel through the eye of a needle...
 - Keep in mind a camel is as big as a Caribou – you know how small a needle is...
 - The point being it is IMPOSSIBLE for those who trust in riches to get into heaven!
 - It's not money that keeps you from heaven – but 'trusting in money...'
 - They have a tendency to trust in their money – rather than trust in God
 - Money is not necessarily a blessing – it can easily become our god...
 - Depending on money to get us out of trouble / provide – rather than on Jesus
 - Turns out it can really be a blessing to have no money - to be poor...
 - When we have no money – it is easier to trust in Jesus (*no other options*)!
 - The disciples asked - 'Who then can be saved'...
 - If this nice man – who was wealthy – could not be saved – who could be...
 - It would be like saying the nicest – kindest – sweetest – person you know...

- o Is still not going 'Good' enough to make it to heaven...
 - o And since we are not as nice or 'Good' as they are - what chance do we have!
- With men it is impossible – with God all things are possible!
 - o It is not being a sinner (*we all are* – **Roman 3:23**) that keeps us from heaven...
 - o It is rejecting the solution for sin that God provided in Jesus Christ...
 - o We are saved by believing in the sacrifice Jesus made for our sin on the cross...
 - o We do not earn our way to Heaven – it is a gift to those who believe in Jesus!
- o 4th - We have left all... vs. 28-30
 - Peter said to Jesus – 'We have left all and followed you...'
 - Recognizing the qualification that Jesus gave to the rich man...
 - Peter reminds Jesus the disciples had left all (*not that they had much to leave*)...
 - Assuredly I say to you – there is no one who has left...
 - House / Parents / Brothers / Wife / Children - for the sake of the Kingdom...
 - Who will not receive many times more in this life - in the age to come eternal life!
 - The cost for following Jesus – is everything - putting Him before anything else...
 - So many people choose not to follow Jesus - because 'the cost is too high'...
 - Yet what is it that we think we have – or might have – greater than Heaven...
 - **Mark 8:36** – "What will it profit if a man gains the whole world, loses his own soul?"
 - People cling onto their '5 pesos in life' - refusing to 'give it all' to the Lord...
 - Not realizing if they did - God would give them 5,000 - AND eternal life!
 - The cost for following Jesus is nothing - compared to the riches we receive!
- 2ND - THE FINAL TRIP TO JERUSALEM... VS. 31-34
 - o Jesus knew this was going to be his last trip to Jerusalem...
 - He was going up to Jerusalem for the Passover - He was going to the cross...
 - Jesus had already tried to explain this twice - **Luke 9:22** / **Mark 9:31**...
 - Again He gave His disciples a very detailed breakdown of the events about to occur...
 - The Jewish leaders would turn Jesus over to the Gentiles (*Pontius Pilate*)...
 - The Romans would mock Him (*Crown of thorns – beat him – ripped out beard*)...
 - Scourge Him – brutal Roman technique meant to elicit confessions...
 - Then Jesus would be crucified – the most brutal death possible...
 - AND on the 3rd day – Jesus would rise again – the Resurrection!
 - o In spite of being EXTREMELY clear - the disciples did not understand - 2 reasons...
 - 1st reason – the Disciples were expecting Jesus to set up His Kingdom here on earth...
 - And they wanted to selfishly to be first in His new Kingdom - rule with Jesus...
 - To sit on Jesus right and Left hand in His glory (*Kingdom*) - **Mark 10:37**
 - Because they were looking for position - they did not understand the crucifixion!
 - Often we miss God's work in our lives – cause we are looking for something else...
 - Rather than coming to God with expectations – we need to come with an open heart
 - 2nd reason – the disciples were ignorant because they were too prideful to stop and ask
 - When we do not understand what God is doing in our lives – we should stop and ask
 - When your children don't understand something – you want them to come to you

- God isn't disappointed when we ask questions – He loves to give His kids answers

● 3RD - BLIND BARTIMAEUS... vs. 35-43

- o As they went coming near Jericho...
 - New-Jericho next to the ruins of the city Joshua conquered when he captured Israel...
 - It is along the route that takes you from Galilee – along the Jordan – to Jerusalem....
 - A large multitude was with them - on their way to Jerusalem for the Passover...
 - A blind man sat by the road begging - Bar-timaeus – 'son of the unclean' - **Mark 10:46**
 - **Matthew 20:30** - tells us two blind men were present - but only Bartimaeus spoke...
 - These were men that everyone ignored – blind beggars who sat along side the road...
 - The outcasts – the un-important – men who no one noticed - who did not matter...
- o Jesus - Son of David - have mercy on me...
 - Bartimaeus had heard Jesus was passing by – this was his one chance to be healed...
 - He cried out for Jesus – and the multitudes told him to be quiet!
 - But that just made him cry out all the louder...
 - Maybe you are like Bartimaeus– not sure you are important - you do not matter...
 - Blind - you can't see where life is taking you – you don't know where you are going...
 - Cry out to Jesus – ask Him to do a work in your life – help you to see!
 - Other may tell you to be quiet – 'who are you to talk to Jesus'...
 - They might say that Jesus is for important people – not for you...
 - Cry out all the more – Jesus hears you - and is more than ready to be there to help you...
- o Jesus heard him - commanded him to come over...
 - Bartimaeus threw aside his coat - sprang up - and came over to Jesus...
 - Jesus had asked the same question of James and John - **Mark 10:35-57**...
 - They asked to be allowed to sit on the right and left hand of Jesus in His Kingdom...
 - Cause they asked for their own selfish desires - they did not get what they wanted!
 - To often in life we do ask God for things - but for the wrong reasons...
 - **James 4:3** - "When you ask, you don't get it because your whole motive is wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure."
 - We ask God to win the Lotto - because we want to be rich and have lots of stuff...
 - We justify ourselves motives - we would give a portion back to God...
 - What we do not realize is if we did win - the money would become our god
 - If the Lord says no when we ask Him for something - it is always for our good!
 - But when Bartimaeus asked to receive his sight - he got exactly what he wanted!
 - When we ask Jesus the right questions - we find we get the answers we want!
 - When we ask for the Lord to open our eyes to see Him - to understand His Word...
 - That is a request we can be sure the Lord will answer - a selfless request!
 - Jesus said - 'receive your sight - your faith has saved you' (*Perfect/Indicative*)...
 - Just like with the Samaritan leper who returned to Jesus...
 - Not only was Bartimaeus sight restored - so He could see Jesus...
 - He had been forgiven of all of his sins - past / present / and future!
 - The rich man walked away - because he thought money was better than Jesus...
 - The disciples were confused - because they were looking for position / power...

- But Bartimaeus could both see - and received the gift of eternal life...
- Do not get caught up in the things of this world - do not look for position...
- Instead be like Bartimaeus - ask the Lord to open your eyes so you can see Jesus!