

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 8, 2009

Passage: Luke 18:18-30

Memory Passage: Luke 18:27

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 18:18-19.** Who was this ruler (Luke 23:13, 35; 24:20)? Does being “good” have one meaning? What might be some different uses of the word “good”? How is God’s goodness different from others? How does the ruler use it?
- (b) Read Luke 10:25-28. How does Jesus respond to the Lawyer in chapter 10? This is basically the same question in chapter 18. Why do you think the ruler gets a different response?
- (c) How does Jesus respond to the ruler’s question? How does this shift the focus of the conversation?
- (d) *Family:* Read Luke 18:18-19. How is the way in which the ruler uses the word “good” different from the way in which Jesus uses the word “good”? In this response to the ruler how does Jesus shift the focus of the conversation? What is it that the ruler is concerned with? Do you think that God alone is good? If God alone is good what results would this have on how you relate to Him and His Word? Pray that you would see God’s goodness and walk in light of that.

DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 18:20-21.** From where do the commandments that Jesus relates to the ruler come (Ex. 20:1-16)? What is unique about the particular commandments Jesus quotes?
- (b) Which ones does Jesus leave out? List them. Why might Jesus mention only these commandments and not the others?
- (c) Are outward signs of obedience always linked to an inward heart of obedience? How does Jesus use the principle in John 15:8 to address the ruler’s question? (Knowing the outcome of the passage, does the ruler pass the test?)
- (d) *Family:* Read Luke 18:20-21. Compare the list of these commandments to Exodus 20:1-16. Which ones does Jesus mention and which ones does he leave out? Can you say the same thing that the ruler said? Read John 15:8. What does John say about bearing fruit? Are you bearing fruit? Pray that the Lord would convict you of areas in your life where you are failing to bear fruit.

DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 18:22-23.** What does the ruler lack? What does Jesus call this ruler to do? What would selling all of his possessions force him to do?
- (b) If the ruler kept what he had and followed Jesus, what would happen when times got tough? What is Jesus attempting to do in light of that?
- (c) *Think about it:* Are you willing to give up whatever God asks of you and follow Him wherever He leads? What if you were to give up T.V. or your car or eating out or your retirement or family? Are you willing to go to India, Africa, Mexico, or to your neighbor’s house and share the gospel and build relationships with them? We are all called to make disciples (Matt 28). Are you?
- (d) *Family:* Read Luke 18:22-23. Talk about what it means to give everything to Jesus. What does God demand of us when we follow after Him? Does He still want us to trust in ourselves? We are called to make disciples. Are you making disciples? Ask God for a chance to make a disciple, to share your faith with or for opportunities to teach someone about God.

DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 18:24-27.** Why is it difficult for the wealthy to enter the kingdom of God? Do you consider yourself wealthy? How about compared to the rest of the world? Isn’t it bad stewardship to give up all your money? Does God sometimes call us to do things that don’t make sense?
- (b) Do you think that the response of those who heard is a legitimate concern? Does Jesus leave your ability to forsake all and follow Him in your hands? How is it possible for us to forsake wealth and follow after Christ?
- (c) *Think about it:* Every American, rich or poor, is addressed by this passage. We are the wealthy country in the world. Do you depend more on your own ability to support yourself or take care of yourself than you trust in God? Are you willing to follow God wherever He might lead you? Give to the Lord all that you might be holding onto and ask Him what he has for you.

(d) *Family*: Read Luke 18:24-27. Talk about the ruler's inability to give up his wealth. Do you think you are wealthy? What about compared to the rest of the world? Is there anything that you would not be willing to give up for Christ? Is there anywhere that you would not be willing to go to follow Christ? Ask God to give you a heart to lay before Him those things which are most hard to let go of.

DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Luke 18:28-30.** What is Peter's response to Jesus' words? Does the Lord rebuke Peter for saying this?

(b) How does Jesus respond to Peter? What does he say? Should this make it easier to give up whatever we are holding back? Does it? Why/why not?

(c) *Think about it*: Do you really believe the promise of Jesus at the end of this passage? Do you really believe that He will bless you many times more? What should this do concerning our willingness to follow after Christ no matter where He leads?

(d) *Family*: Read Luke 18:28-30. What does Jesus promise to His disciples? When will they receive this? Does this imply things might not be great here on earth? Ask God for the faith to hold fast to His promises and for a heart that looks toward eternity and not our present circumstances.

DAY 6 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(e) *Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Luke 18:18-30. It is easy to judge the ruler, but is there anything that you would not be willing to give up? Where do you spend most of your time and passion? Are you willing to give that up? God might not call you to give away all your money, but are you willing to give up anything and everything if he called you to? Ask God to show you what you might be holding back from Him. Ask Him to show you what you might be holding onto too tightly.

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Reliant Following

"Sell all that you have...and follow me."