

Entering the Kingdom (Luke 18:18-43)

Young, wealthy, and powerful. The rich young ruler seemed to have everything going for him. So why does he leave his encounter with Jesus filled with sadness and grief? Poor, destitute, and blind. This unnamed beggar seemed to be missing everything in his life. So why does his encounter with Jesus result in joy and glory to God? Entering the upside-down kingdom of Jesus isn't always what we think.

1 A Rich Young Ruler (Luke 18:18-30)

This ruler seems to be just the kind of person you'd want to join your movement: wealthy, powerful, young, and inquisitive. Yet he leaves Jesus sad. Jesus loved the Rich Young Ruler enough to show him what he lacked, a love for God that surpassed his love for status and wealth. The monster inside this rich ruler was the idol of wealth and status that would destroy his soul. Jesus invites him to experience freedom and true wealth through following Him. vs. 1 Tim. 6:10, Luke 12:13-21. He invites us to this same freedom and wealth today.

2 The Accomplishment of the King (Luke 18:31-34)

Jesus accomplished what the Scripture points to. The upside down kingdom of God is most poignantly displayed in the victory of God through the cross of Christ and His resurrection, despite Jesus disciples blindness.

3 The Blind Receive Sight (Luke 18:35-43)

A blind beggar receives the kingdom with joy because of his faith. His trust in Jesus as the "Son of David" was the means God used to restore his sight. He came with nothing but received everything.

Questions:

1. What do we learn about the rich young ruler from this passage? What is he searching for?
2. How does Jesus respond and interact with the rich young ruler? What does Jesus say that he lacks and why? Why does Jesus ask him to give away everything and follow Him? What are we to learn about Jesus and His kingdom from this interaction?
3. Why is wealth such a big topic in Jesus ministry? Why can it hinder us from entering God's kingdom? Rd.Lk.12:13-21, 1 Tim. 6:10, Mt. 6:19-24.
4. How is it that we can enter into the Kingdom of God in view of what Luke is teaching us in this story?
5. What does Jesus tell the disciples in vs. 31-34? Why did they not understand what Jesus was telling them? How is this the truest demonstration of God's kingdom?
6. What's happening in vvs.35-43? What does this blind beggar ask Jesus to do? What does he call Jesus?
7. How did this man's faith make him well? Why did he leave following Jesus with joy and the rich young ruler left Jesus with sadness and grief? How might this be instructive to how we approach Jesus?