

PAID IN FULL
Luke 18:26-34

Background: The rich young ruler **18:18-25** A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 19 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. 20 You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'" 21 "All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said. 22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 23 When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth. 24 Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! 25 Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

NO ONE GIVES UP A THING! *You can't outgive God!*

The rich man doesn't recognize the value of the kingdom
and isn't willing to give what he has to get eternal life.

THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF EARNING ENTRANCE 18:26-27

Man's Dilemma 18:26 Their response to comment about the rich:

Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?"

They come face to face with the reality:

We can never do enough
to satisfy God's demands and earn eternal life.

"How Good Is Good Enough?"

God's Solution 18:27

Jesus replied, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

What we couldn't possibly do for ourselves,

God has done for us.

THE SACRIFICE OF THE FAITHFUL REWARDED 18:28-30

Peter's Question 18:28

Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!"

Peter is quick to note that he and the other apostles have done what
Christ demanded of the rich ruler

—They have left all and followed Him.

Therefore, they might reasonably expect treasure in heaven and eternal life.

According to Matthew's account (19:27), Peter asks: "What about us?"

His view sounds materialistic: "What's in it for us?"

"What's our reward?"

Jesus promises they will sit on thrones, ruling over the 12 tribes of Israel (19:28).

Because of their sacrificial choice to follow Him,

they will be given important administrative posts in the kingdom.

Jesus' Response 18:29-30

"God always gives more than He gets"

The sacrifice 18:29 *"I tell you the truth," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God...."*

No one gives up such things without getting more back from God.

The **rich young ruler** had to be willing to give up his wealth,
to gain the eternal riches God wants to give him.

The disciples have to learn that they have sacrificed nothing.

They could never outgive God. It can't be done!

David Livingstone responded to someone who was noting the trials he endured and the sorrows he had borne, losing his wife and his health in the jungles of Africa, "Sacrifices? I never made a sacrifice in all my life!"

Do WE understand that sentiment?

**Those who commit their lives to doing the Father's will,
in order to please Him above all else,
ALWAYS feel that way!**

Do WE? Have we made that choice?

**Jim Elliot: "He is no fool, who gives up what he cannot keep,
to gain what he cannot lose!"**

The promise is not only true for the apostles.

Anyone who makes such a sacrifice for His sake inherits a reward.

This isn't an attempt to buy our way into heaven.

It's a recognition of Who He is, and how much He is worth.

It's an outgrowth of trusting Him.

The reward 18:30 [29 "*no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God*] ³⁰ *will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life.*"

Present benefits:

Those who give up a lot and make sacrifices for the sake of the kingdom receive more than they give.

That's true even from temporary/temporal perspective of life.

This promise does cover material blessings.

You can't outgive God!

This was never intended to be a materialistic, money-centered, get-rich-quick scheme.

People looking for that kind of response from God will never make the kind of sacrifices Jesus refers to.

To the contrary, this passage refers to giving up our self-centered, personal interests, for the sake of His kingdom.

While there may be hard times,

there's peace that the world can never give,

and cannot take away,

and a joy no one can take from us.

Notice the focus on family.

Those who give up family for His sake will gain a greater, more significant, family—a new family. [Job, "El grupito"]

Their family extends in size and in meaningful relationships.

Future benefits: Besides that, they count on eternal life.

This is not a promise that we can buy eternal life.

It is a fact of life.

No one willingly sacrifices these things,

unless God has placed the motivation within us.

When we respond that way, we're rewarded,

more than we could ever sacrifice!

Bruce Larson mentions H.P. Hunt's quotation: "If you know how rich you are, you're not really rich." The really rich have no idea how rich they are.

I don't believe we who are God's children have any idea how rich we are.

True wealth doesn't count dollars and cents!!!

Those who make such sacrifices have it better, even now.

They get the best of both worlds!

THE SACRIFICE OF THE KING FORETOLD 18:31-34

Not only does Jesus call on US to make a sacrifice,

HE Himself made the supreme sacrifice,

so that we might inherit eternal life.

Jesus' Prediction 31-33 *Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. 32 He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. 33 On the third day he will rise again."*

Final instructions deal with His rejection, death and resurrection (18:31-19:27).

Each time Jesus announces His death

He becomes a bit more specific.

He adds the role of pagans in His death.

He's graphic about the extent of reviling and attacks against Him.

He adds the promise of resurrection

He wants them to be aware of things that are going to happen and how they relate to God's plan.

Though those who have given all to follow Him will be repaid, now the plan is for Jesus to go to Jerusalem, be rejected and die.

Death is necessary.

"Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies"

In nature, one form of life has to die for others to live.

That's the law of life.

That's the way it was with Jesus' death.

Only through His death did it become possible for us to live.

Dramatic example of one who died that others might live was witnessed by our nation on television at the crash of Flight 90 out of Washington D.C. in the spring of '82. The plane flew a few hundred yards and crashed into the Potomac. Cameras focused in on a bald man with a mustache who kept grabbing the ring from the helicopter and passing it to another person. Five people were saved before he slipped under the water and drowned. He gave his life that 5 others might live. In an even greater, more unusual sense Jesus gave His life that we all might live.

Their Lack of Understanding 34

The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.

The disciples still can't believe it.

Other accounts indicate it's at about this time that the disciples are squabbling over personal prestige in the kingdom.

Two connive to get ahead of the others.

They still haven't gotten the message: the next stop is the cross. If they follow Him now, it will be to the grave, not to glory.

They don't understand what this is all about!

We see in the anticipation of His death a common phenomenon.

Many universities now offer a course in death education.

Premise: children aren't prepared for dealing with death.

Number of deaths impacting students at our local schools.

That isn't only true of children.
 Jesus' disciples aren't ready to deal with His death either.
 Frequently death takes us unawares. [Rollin Jump]
 We're not prepared for the death of a friend or loved one.
 Our Lord announces his death seven times.
 They still can't accept the announcement.
 They aren't prepared to deal with His death.
 Jesus looks at death directly and deals with it realistically.
Young doctor on his first day as an intern watched four people die. He called his wife: "Honey, I don't think I'm going to make it in this profession." To come to grips with death is terrifying, and yet it is the only way to real life, eternal life.
 In spite of repeated explanations of prophecies that Messiah would be rejected, crucified and resurrected, the disciples still don't get it.
 They can't comprehend this kind of sacrifice.
 Luke repeats their problem 3 times.
 This doesn't make sense!
 Jesus knows exactly what the plan is and faces it squarely.
 He wants the Father's plan and our redemption more than personal profit.
 The disciples can't understand it because they have their own plan. Death isn't part of their plan.
 They want a conquering king, who will loose His power in Jerusalem and blast His enemies off the face of the earth!
 We often think like that, don't we?
 We only hear what we want to hear.
 No one is as blind as the person who will not see!
 Jesus knows the Father's plan and is ready to pay the price
 Had they been more conscious of God's plan,
 they would have been able to encourage Him
 and to wait expectantly to watch God work.
 However, they have their own agenda, and don't experience victory in the darkness when God's plan doesn't conform to theirs,
 and when they don't see what they're expecting to see.
 Neither can we understand it.
 Why would God become a man and die so that we, the sinful, could enjoy life?
 The disciples can't understand it. We can't explain it. But it's true. He just asks us to take hold of the life that He died to give us.

IMPLICATIONS FOR US:

Two sides of sacrifice: Jesus' sacrifice for us/ours for Him.
 Both kinds of sacrifice lead to blessing.
**Jim Elliot: "He is no fool, who gives up what he cannot keep,
 to gain what he cannot lose!"**
 It's still true: the only way for life to begin is through the death of another.
Death is necessary.
 One form of life has to die for others to live.
 That's the way it was with Jesus' death.
 Through His death it became possible for us to live.