

KINGDOM CROSSROADS | LUKE 18:15-43 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 6/14/2026

I. Requirement for All | II. Challenge of Coveting All | III. Blessings for Leaving All | IV. Reminder of Giving All | V. Desire to See It All

INTRO: In (Luke 18:15-43), Jesus continues to Spread the Kingdom through real-life encounters, bringing people face-to-face with truth and Calling them to Respond! – Some receive it by faith, some walk away unwilling to surrender, and others have their eyes opened to see Jesus. – In every encounter, the Kingdom is NEAR—but SEEING IT... as Jesus reveals it, requires a decision! Every path leads to one unmistakable intersection... **KINGDOM CROSSROADS.**

I. REQUIREMENT FOR ALL (18:15-17) – READ: *The Kingdom Requires Childlike FAITH!*

A. Children Were Brought (15) – In that culture, children were brought to a Rabbi for a blessing. These parents brought their children to Jesus that *He might put His hands on them and pray* (Matt 19:13b). **They recognized something important:** Every child needs the Savior. (*Bring our kids to Jesus!*)

- The disciples saw them as an Interruption! – *They rebuked the parents?* (*Heart Check time!*)
- As disciples, we can develop the same attitude! – We become so focused on what we think is important that we miss what Jesus values!
- Jesus Values People, especially those who seem insignificant in the eyes of the world. (*Like Kids!*)

P/A: As disciples, we are Called to Point the next generation to Christ. (*Not hinder them!*) – We must be careful not to place human expectations where Jesus has placed open arms!

B. Children Are Blessed (16-17) – *Jesus welcomed the children* because They Picture How People Enter the Kingdom (16). *“...Let the little children come ... for of such is the Kingdom of God.”*

1. Jesus saw them as an Opportunity to Explain Kingdom Requirements (17) – He knew that Children are Pure and Simple, they have Trusting hearts and they Believe without question. – He therefore declares that such Childlike Faith is REQUIRED BY ALL for entrance into the Kingdom!
2. Jesus is not speaking of Age or even Childish Behavior, His emphasis is that True Believers are genuinely Humble, Trusting and Dependent as a Child is; these are the ones who enter the Kingdom.

P/A: This is the first Kingdom Crossroads in our passage. – To enter God's Kingdom, you must abandon self-sufficiency and come humbly to Christ. – *Salvation is not earned through achievement. It is received through faith.* → A child does not negotiate for a gift. **A child simply receives it!**

- God welcomes those who know they need Him! – Have you come to Jesus with childlike faith? Have you stopped trying to earn God's favor and simply trust His grace? – (Eph 2:8) *For by grace ...*

SEGUE: Moving on... the next person at the KINGDOM CROSSROADS, is a Man holding ever so tightly, to the Very Thing which keeps him from fully surrendering to the King. *Now we learn of the...*

II. CHALLENGE OF COVETING ALL (18:18-23) – READ: *The Kingdom Challenges Covetousness!*

A. The Seeking Ruler (18-19) – The 'RYR' approached Jesus with an Important Question... *“What must I DO to get eternal life?”* – Notice He addressed Jesus as a Good Teacher, but Not LORD!

1. **The RYR was Seeking Eternal Life by his Good Works (18)** – He was at the Kingdom Crossroads. – His approach reveals mankind's natural tendency to try to EARN salvation by works. (*Impossible!*)

2. **Jesus Challenges the Man's Understanding of Goodness (19)** – In other words, He says...

*"You ask **What Good Thing you can do**, but **Do you really understand What Goodness is?**"*

- **Jesus does not deny** that **He IS the GOOD Teacher**, but declares that **Only One is Good, GOD!** – The Jews reserved the term **GOOD for God only (Ps 25:8; 34:8; 86:5; 106:119:168)** – In the O.T. **GOD'S GOODNESS** is not just a trait... **it's His nature!** He is consistently described as **GOOD** in character, actions, and **covenant faithfulness**. – *So then...*
- **If Only GOD is GOOD...** and the man **called JESUS GOOD...** then **Jesus' statement laid out His deity for the man to discover!** – It's obvious that **the man's expression was ONLY used as a Flattering Statement, not a Confession of Jesus' Deity!** – With that established, *Jesus exposes...*

B. The Secret Rival (20-21) – **Outwardly** he obeyed God's commands, but **Inwardly** something else ruled his heart. **Jesus knew what it was, the RYR did not!** – (1 John 5:21) *keep yourselves from idols.*

C. The Sorrowful Refusal (22-23) – Jesus directly answered the question: **"What must I Do!"** The Answer: **Sell All, Distribute All, and Come... follow Me! (22)** – Christ put His finger on the man's idol!

- The Ruler arrived at a **Kingdom Crossroads**. – He could **choose God's law (cf. Deut 6:5)** or **choose his own possessions**.
- **Sadly, he chose his Possessions (23)** – Luke tells us **he became Very Sorrowful because he was very rich**. – The tragedy was not that he had wealth. The tragedy was that **wealth had him**. (Matt 6:21) *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

P/A: Jesus brings everybody to the Kingdom Crossroads... **He will not settle for second place in our lives**. **Whatever we Refuse to Surrender will eventually compete with His rule!** – The issue is never **what we possess, but what possesses us**. – Christ's call remains the same... → **"Follow Me."** – Jesus exposes **IDOLS we COVET** in our hearts, **so we can surrender fully to Him!** (*Is He doing that right now?*)

SEGUE: Though Total Surrender is Difficult, **Jesus moves on to explain that the blessings of God's Kingdom, far outweigh anything left behind...**

III. BLESSINGS FOR LEAVING ALL (18:24-30) – **READ:** After observing the reaction of the RYR, Jesus warns on **How hard it is for those who Trust in Riches to enter the Kingdom...**

A. The Danger of Riches (24-25) – **WHY is it so difficult?** Because **WEALTH** creates a false sense of security and self-sufficiency. → **The more resources people have, the easier it becomes to believe they do not need God.** – (2 John 2:15) *Do not love the world or the things in the world...*

- Jesus used the **Vivid Picture** of **A CAMEL passing through the eye of a needle**. (*An impossibility!*)
- Jesus is clearly teaching that **riches can become an obstacle to the Kingdom of God!**
- **(1 Tim 6:17), "Command those who are rich...not to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God."**

P/A: Anything that makes us feel self-sufficient **can become a spiritual danger!**

B. The Power of Grace (26-27) – The disciples responded, **"Who then can be saved?"** – **Which is exactly the point Jesus is trying to make**. – Jesus declares that **Salvation is a miracle of God's Grace!** No one enters the Kingdom through **effort, morality, or religion**. Only God can do what man cannot do!

P/A: If you are trusting Christ today, it is because God has graciously worked in your life. (*Give Him glory!*)

C. The Promise of Reward (28-30) – Peter reminded Jesus that *the disciples had left everything to follow Him.* // **A COST is involved** in following Christ, but **Jesus assured them that no sacrifice made for the Kingdom would go unnoticed!** – **Whatever is surrendered for Christ will be more than repaid by God's faithfulness.** – **Jesus calls us to exchange Temporary things for Eternal treasures.**

- **Crossroads Decisions must be made:** The world says, *“Hold it Tightly”* ... Jesus says, *“Surrender it freely.”* – The world says, *“Protect yourself.”* Jesus says, *“Trust Me.”*
- **(Matt 6:33) “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all will be added....”**

SEGUE: As Jesus followers would have to give up for the Kingdom... at this next Kingdom Crossroads, Jesus reminds them that HE also must give everything up—laying down His life to bring salvation to all...

IV. REMINDER OF GIVING ALL (18:31-34) – **READ:** *The King Clarifies His Mission to His disciples* – Each prediction of His death became increasingly detailed (9:22, 44; 12:50; 13:32–33; 17:25).

A. The Planned Sacrifice (31-32) – **Jesus wasn't merely speaking about sacrifice** → He was walking toward it. – Every step towards Jerusalem was a statement to His disciples that their King would Give All before asking anyone to “Follow Him.” – **(Mark 10:45) “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”**

- **All Things written... must be accomplished!** (e.g., Ps 22; 69; Isa 53; Dan 9:26; Zech 13:7)

B. The Painful Suffering (33a) – **They would scourge Him!** (with a cat-o'-nine-tails) – The Cross was God's plan for our redemption... **“But He was wounded for our transgressions.” (Isa 53:5)** – The focal point is Christ's redemptive work! – **SONG: Jesus PAID/GAVE IT ALL... all to Him I owe.** – *His Suffering brought...*

C. The Promised Victory (33b) – As prophesied (9:22), **Jesus would rise again on the third day.** – I love what Jesus declared in (Rev 1:18) *“I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore.”*

D. The Perplexity (34) – The disciples **heard Jesus' words** but failed to grasp His meaning. **Spiritual truth requires more than listening—it requires God to open our eyes.** (cf. Luke 24:45)

SEGUE: Luke then contrasts the spiritual blindness of the disciples with **a blind beggar** who cannot see **AT ALL**, yet is about to see more clearly than anyone. At this final **Kingdom Crossroad**, Jesus shows us what it truly means to **See It All**.

V. DESIRE TO SEE IT ALL (18:35-43) – **READ:** *The Kingdom Commends Crying FAITH!*

A. Crying Out for Mercy (35-39) – This blind beggar hears that Jesus is passing by so he persistently **cries out for mercy**, refusing to be silenced (35-38). – **“All the more,”** is a loud emotional cry, like a scream.

- His use of the Title: “SON OF DAVID” affirms that he recognized Jesus as the Messiah (39)
- His deepest desire was Mercy from Jesus, so that he could See Jesus!

P/A: At this **Kingdom Crossroads**, the blind man shows us True Faith **refuses to stop calling on Christ** until He responds and reveals Himself. – **(Rom 10:13) says, “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”** – Is there some area of your life that you are blind? **Cry out from His Mercy!**

B. Calling Out Faith (40-41) – Jesus actually **STOPS**, calls the man to Himself, and **DRAWS OUT his Desire...** which in turn Roused his Faith. – Jesus asked *“What do you want me to do for you?”*

- At this **Kingdom Crossroad** moment he Answered by Faith, *“Lord, that I may receive my sight.”* – Faith is the very thing that will stop Jesus in His tracks. It’s what He is looking for (18:8)

C. The Powerful Change (42-43) – *Jesus immediately gave him sight*, and his response was to follow Christ and glorify God. What began with a cry for mercy became a life of discipleship!

P/A: The blind beggar saw what others missed. While many around him saw only a miracle worker, he saw the Messiah. – **Faith enabled him to respond correctly** when he came to his Kingdom Crossroad. – **The same is true for us.** When faith opens our eyes to **who Jesus is**, it moves us to trust Him, follow Him, and choose His Kingdom above all else.

FINAL THOUGHTS: Every Kingdom Crossroad requires a response to Jesus!

In this sermon, some walked away, some surrendered, and some followed. **But every person had to make a choice.** → **Today is no different!**

- **The King has been revealed** → **The Kingdom is near** → **The Crossroads are before you!**
- *“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.” (Joshua 24:15)*

The Kingdom Crossroad Question I leave you with is: **How will you respond to Jesus?... Will you choose the Kingdom?**