

Luke 18 Pt 2

Truth
Sully/Leah

III. How Can I Be Perfect?

18 Now a certain ruler **asked Him**, saying, “**Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?**”

Matthew 10:17 Now as He was going out on the road, **one came running, knelt before Him**, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”

Rich Ruler: Launches into the Two Most Important Issues in the World

- Who is Jesus?
- How can I have Eternal Life?

Jesus deals with the first issue...Who do you say I AM?

19 So Jesus said to him, “**Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.**”

Jesus is not denying He is God but in fact Affirming He is God

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. [Lewis]

Jesus is either God and good or not God and not good

Q. Is Jesus good? **A. Yes...**Then He is God because none are good but God

IOWs Why do you call Me good which only God is and yet address Me as simply another earthly Rabbi? [NJC]

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God ... 14** And the **Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- **Issue One:** Settled. Who is Jesus? If I'm good I am God. My Word is Authoritative.
- **Issue Two:** How can I have Eternal Life?

What must I DO to inherit Eternal Life...Get to the Good Place?

20 **You know the commandments:** 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and

your mother.' " 21 And he said, "**All these things I have kept from my youth.**"

- **Jesus strategically uses the Law of God to cause him to...**

1. **Realize** he cannot be righteous by what he does
2. **Seek** out a righteousness *apart from the law* he thinks he keeps

Problem? God's Law is not like Horseshoes or Hand Grenades
Getting close is not enough...

Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are **under the curse**; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who **does not continue in all things** which are written in the book of the law, **to do them.**"

James 2:10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet **stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.**

- I've kept all you mentioned

22 So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "**You still lack one thing.**"

Mark 10:21 [Parallel] **Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack..."**

Christ gives him a test. If he is what he thinks he is, he will be ready to obey whatever command God lays upon him. Christ is about to lay one upon him; let us see whether he will obey that. [Spurgeon]

22b...Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

- **Hard Teaching/Said in love:** You are a Covetous Idolater

Broke Two of Ten Commandments for a Start...

Exodus 20:17 [Tenth] **"You shall not covet..."**

Exodus 20:3 [First] **"You shall have no other gods before Me. [c.f. Col. 3:5]**

- **Jesus offers way of repentance**

1. **Sell** everything you have
2. **Give** the money to the poor
3. **Come follow Me...**

...And You will Have Treasure in Heaven

Not because of what He did but because He would be making Jesus Lord by doing it

- **Repentance:** Entrance to Eternal Life. Wanna do Sumpin? **Do this...**

1. **Sell** everything
2. **Give** money to poor
3. **Come follow Me**

23 But when he heard this, he became **very sorrowful**, for he was very rich.

Matthew 19:22b... he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

- **Sorrowful:** Lit. Overcome with such sorrow *as to cause ones death*

Perfect response? Fall at Jesus feet again

Instead: Chose temporal riches over Eternal Life he said he desired

- **Jesus brilliantly used the Law to cause the man to:**

1. **Know** he's not as righteous as he thought and hopefully...
2. **Seek** a righteousness apart from the law only found in Jesus [good teacher]

Free-Will: Make a Choice

- Began the discussion with **2 problems:**

"Good Teacher what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

- **First problem:** Good Teacher; i.e. does not know Who Jesus really is...

Colossians 1:15 [Jesus] is the **image of the invisible God**, the firstborn **over all creation**.
 16 **For by Him all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 **And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.**

Why is denying Jesus is God a problem?

No Salvation for those who deny the Deity of Jesus

John 8:24 ...I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that **I am He**, you will die in your sins."**...58** Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I AM.**" **59** Then they took up stones to throw at Him

If you don't know Jesus as God Almighty in the flesh you do not know Jesus. If you do not know Him He does not know you. That's a problem. [NJC]

Jesus is either God and good or not God and not good

- **Problem One:** Not recognizing Jesus for all He is
- **Problem Two:** Asking what must **I do?**

Salvation: All we bring to the table is our sin...

Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is **rich in mercy**, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ **...8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- **Rich in Mercy:** Jesus looking at Him, loved him and let him walk away

Standard for Eternal Life is Perfect Righteousness

Q. What must I do to inherit Eternal Life? **A.** Seek a righteousness apart from you

Romans 3:21 But now the **righteousness of God apart from the law** is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the **righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ**, to all and on all who believe.

The Road to Eternal Life begins with Repentance
Abandoning Self Righteousness/Accepting the Righteousness Jesus offers

Acts 16:29 "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 So they said, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved...**"

John 6:28 "What shall we do, that we may **work the works of God**?" ..."This is the work of God, that you **believe in Him whom He sent.**"

Yet the ruler was right [in saying Jesus was good]. **He knew not** that he was speaking to One who is, assuredly, God, and; in the highest sense, good; but, since he had asked, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" **Christ answered his enquiry.**

When the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful
For he had great possessions and they meant more to him...for now

IV. All Things Are Possible With God

24 And when Jesus saw that [the rich ruler] became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! 25 For 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."

Matthew 13:22 ... the **deceitfulness of riches chokes the word...**

- **Deceit of Riches:** to cheat, beguile, deceive us
- **IOWs** Believing Money can do what only God can...
 1. **Save me.** Make whole
 2. **Protect me**
 3. **Bring me** Joy

The love of money was so powerfully deceptive in the man's life that he chose to hang on to it even in when it caused *sorrow unto death* and at the risk of eternal damnation. If he continues down this path, sorrow will be the least of his problems on earth and for eternity. [NJC]

1 Timothy 6:10 ...the love of money is a root of **all kinds of evil**, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, **and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**

26 And those who heard it said, "**Who then can be saved?**"

Matthew 19:25 "...*greatly astonished* asked, "**Who then can be saved?**"

IOWs If that guy who came so close to keeping the law isn't getting in...
Who can be saved?

- **Note:** Knew their need to be **saved**
- **Saved:** gr. *sōzō*; i.e. **to be made whole**

People know something is not right
People innately know we are not born whole

- **If not that guy...who then can be saved?**

27 But [Jesus] said, "The things which are **impossible with men** are **possible with God.**"

- **It is impossible** for you to save yourself *but God* can save you
- **It is impossible** for you to make yourself whole but God can

We need to be made whole?

Matthew 19:21 Jesus said to [rich young ruler], "If you want to be **perfect...**" i.e. *complete*

- **Salvation** [or completion] is only possible with God

We must be Perfect/Holy/Righteous **to be at one** w/a Perfect/Holy/Righteous God
Newsflash: None of us are Perfect/Holy/Righteous in/of ourselves

- Born Separated by Sin
- Made one again by Jesus Atonement [At-Onement]

28 Then Peter said, "**See, we have left all and followed You.**"

Matthew 19:27 [Parallel] [Peter said...] "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore **what shall we have?**"

IOWs You told that guy to sell all he had/follow you...We did that
When does the good stuff happen?

29 So He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, 30 who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life."

- You will have everything when I set up My Kingdom...

Matthew 19:28 ... in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a **hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.** 30 But many who are first will be last and the last first.

- **Following Jesus now may mean separation from...**
- Houses/Parents/Brothers/Spouses/Children For the sake of the Kingdom
- **Receive more in this life:** How? Church Family

1. **Hospitality:** Brothers/sisters homes
2. **Surrogate Parents:** Those missing their own
3. **Multitudes of brothers/sisters** in the Lord all over the world
4. **Spiritual family** closer than blood/because of Jesus blood/Unity of Spirit

▪ **Receive exponentially more in Age to come:** Regeneration

1. **100x** what you sacrificed now
2. **Renewal** of the Earth/New Dispensation for 1000 years and after
3. **Jesus the righteous King** sitting on the Throne of David
4. **12 Apostles** in Israel governing the 12 tribes
5. **Church governing Nations** and judging angels

Don't worry Peter...Your sacrifice will all be worth it

31 Then **He took the twelve aside** and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. 32 For He will be **delivered to the Gentiles** and will be **mocked and insulted** and spit upon. 33 They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."

With God all things are possible...

Even for God there is no easy way to save us/make us whole

▪ **Peter:** What do we get?

Jesus reminds Peter of what He is about to do for him

IOWs Nothing we sacrifice will come close to the sacrifice Jesus made for us

34 But they understood **none of these things**; this saying was hidden from them, and **they did not know the things which were spoken.**

▪ **They understood NONE of what Jesus just said**

1. Jesus said it to them, so...Was it not for them to hear/understand? Or...
2. Maybe they're still thinking about themselves/what they get? Sinners.

We must be made whole...Nothing we do can make that happen
Thankfully...**What's impossible with men is possible with God**