

## Kingdom Come: Jesus Over Riches

Luke 18:18-30

### Intro

Kingdom Come:

- Repentance
- Salt & Light
- Healing Signs & Wonders
- God with us

Kingdom Come: Jesus over Riches

Luke 18:18-30 NLT

[18] Once a religious leader asked Jesus this question: "Good Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?" [19] "Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked him. "Only God is truly good. [20] But to answer your question, you know the commandments: 'You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. Honor your father and mother.'" [21] The man replied, "I've obeyed all these commandments since I was young." [22] When Jesus heard his answer, he said, "There is still one thing you haven't done. Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." [23] But when the man heard this he became very sad, for he was very rich. [24] When Jesus saw this, he said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God! [25] In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!" [26] Those who heard this said, "Then who in the world can be saved?" [27] He replied, "What is impossible for people is possible with God." [28] Peter said, "We've left our homes to follow you." [29] "Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the Kingdom of God, [30] will be repaid many times over in this life, and will have eternal life in the world to come."

3 things this passage tells us about following Jesus over riches

2 ways we should live in response to this passage

1 thing to do to live this way

### True Riches Require a Heart Response

- Luke 18:22-23 NLT [22] When Jesus heard his answer, he said, "There is still one thing you haven't done. Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." [23] But when the man heard this he became very sad, for he was very rich.
- Dwarves from the Hobbit
  - Quest to find the treasure
  - The love of treasure changes Thorin
  - We can see where his heart was by the value he placed on treasure
- You can tell the heart condition of a person by looking at where they place their treasure
- There is trouble if our heart is set on worldly treasure
- 1 Tim 6:9-10 tells us if we set our heart on world treasure we are setting up ourselves for misery.

- Longing to be rich causes us to fall into temptation.
- Longing to be rich causes us to be trapped in foolish and harmful desires.
- Longing to be rich plunges us into ruin and destruction.
- Love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.
- Craving money causes us to wonder from the truth.
- Contrast that to earlier on in 1 Tim 6
- Following true riches promotes a godly life.
- Those true riches are Jesus Himself
- Colossians 2:2-3 TPT [2] I am contending for you that your hearts will be wrapped in the comfort of heaven and woven together into love's fabric. This will give you access to **all the riches of God as you experience the revelation of God's great mystery-Christ.** [3] **For our spiritual wealth is in him, like hidden treasure waiting to be discovered**-heaven's wisdom and **endless riches of revelation knowledge.**
- When the man questioned Jesus (Luke 18), Jesus' answer and the man's response to that answer revealed that the man's heart was set on worldly wealth not on true eternal wealth.
- His heart followed where his wealth was.
- He didn't want to give up worldly wealth to live for Jesus
- Jesus was speaking to a specific person on a specific occasion
- Jesus is not asking us all to go sell everything
- He asks us to check our heart attitude
- Only in Him are true heavenly riches
- What are you living for?
- Where does your true treasure lie?

### **True Riches Lead to Dependence on Christ**

- In terms of global wealth we live in the top 5% of people in the world.
- Something I am thankful for
- Luke 18:24-27 NLT [24] When Jesus saw this, he said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God! [25] In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!" [26] Those who heard this said, "Then who in the world can be saved?" [27] He replied, "What is impossible for people is possible with God."
- Our worldly riches have no value on our salvation
- Only true riches, knowing Christ, has value
- That's why true riches lead to dependence on Him, we depend on Him to provide for eternity.
- John 14:3 NLT [3] When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

### **True Riches are Eternal Riches**

- Matthew 6:19-21 NLT [19] "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. [21] Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.
- Susie and I were looking at savings account
- Investment takes time to mature
- When we invest into true riches, we invest into eternity.
- Investing in true riches, investing into growing in the Knowledge of God are sacrificial

- It's a sacrifice to get up early and pray
- It's a sacrifice to fast
- It's a sacrifice to turn off the TV and read the Bible instead
- It's a sacrifice to make disciples and invest in community
- It's a sacrifice to be generous, we have to go without
- These things don't always bring immediate fruit
- We may not see fruit this side of eternity
- These practices, these sacrifices bring eternal fruit
- Our true treasure is in Christ
- Luke 18:29-30 NLT [29] "Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the Kingdom of God, [30] will be repaid many times over in this life, and will have eternal life in the world to come."

## **Two ways we are called to live in response to this message:**

### **Live in abandonment to Jesus**

- The story of Sister Wendy Beckett

*Sister Wendy Beckett. A graduate of Oxford University, Sister Wendy entered the Notre Dame Community in 1946. She lived simply in a mobile home in the garden of a monastery in Norfolk. All she owns is a fold-up bed, a mattress, a bookcase, a table and chair, and a manual typewriter. She gets up just before midnight every day. Since 1946, when she joined Notre Dame Community aged sixteen, her daily prayer has been, "Oh God, it is to praise thee that I awake". In recent years, Sister Wendy has found fame as an art historian and TV presenter. However this has not affected her frugal life. She allows herself four crisps each day. Her great friend Delia Smith used to buy her a box of chocolates for her birthday in February, but stopped doing so once she discovered that there were still some left at Christmas.*

*She spends seven hours a day in prayer and two hours working. Sister Wendy says this:*

*"Before bed at ten o'clock I put my feet in lovely hot water, I'm very tired, and I say, 'It is you, O Lord, who are my happiness.' And I lie there drifting off into sleep. There's a psalm: 'I sleep but my heart watches.' By two o'clock I'm awake again, a very lucky woman with a very happy life. Looking back, the years in Notre Dame deepened my desire for God. I had a pool of desire when I first started; now have an ocean full for him, and I couldn't be happier."*

- Here is an example of a life who lived in abandonment to Jesus
- She lived not for worldly riches but true riches
- She was ultimately satisfied in Christ and Christ alone
- She died in Dec 2018
- Can you imagine the eternal reward that greeted her
- The apostle Paul lived in abandonment to Jesus
- Philippians 3:7-9 NLT [7] I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. [8] Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have

discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ [9] and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.

### **Live for eternity**

- Where is your treasure?
- Is it focussed on worldly riches?
- Money, possessions?
- Is it focussed on true riches, Jesus Himself which bring an eternal reward?

### **One thing we can do:**

- Jeremiah 6:16 NLT [16] This is what the LORD says: "Stop at the crossroads and look around. Ask for the old, godly way, and walk in it. Travel its path, and you will find rest for your souls."
- Disciplines (Prayer, Fasting, Bible Reading, Disciple Making, Giving)
- Spiritual Disciplines help us to set our gaze on the true riches of Christ Himself
- Spiritual Disciplines help us to set our focus on the true riches of Christ Himself
- Spiritual Disciplines help us to set our heart on the true riches of Christ Himself
- Spiritual Disciplines help us to grow in the knowledge of who He is, His character, nature, person, works, teaching and mission
- Spiritual Disciplines help us to take an internal look and see our dependance on Jesus