

Comparisons



Luke 18 v18-25 Rich young ruler

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.”

Luke 18 v18-25 Rich young ruler

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!” NLT

Luke 19 v1-10 Zacchaeus

19 Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town.

2 There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. **3** He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd.

4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. **5** When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name.

“Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.”

6 Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy.

Luke 19 v1-10 Zacchaeus

⁷ But the people were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” they grumbled.

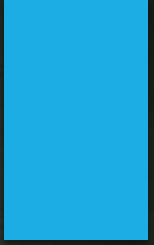
⁸ Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!”

⁹ Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham.

¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.” NLT

Feature	The Rich Young Ruler	Zacchaeus
Social Status	Highly respected	Despised chief tax collector
Initial Approach	Approaches Jesus publicly	Climbs a tree
Self-Evaluation	Kept all the commandments	Acknowledges his corruption
Jesus' Command	Sell everything you have	None
Response to Wealth	Clings to his money	Gives half away
Final Outcome	Walks away in grief; misses salvation	Receives Jesus gladly; salvation enters his home

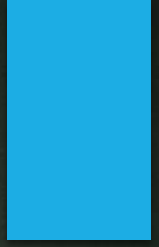
Why?



Rich young ruler

Why ask about eternal life? Why call Jesus 'good' teacher? Why was he told to sell everything? Why camels and eyes of needles?

Why?



Rich young ruler

Why ask about eternal life? Why call Jesus 'good' teacher? Why was he told to sell everything? Why camels and eyes of needles?

Zacchaeus

Why so keen to see Jesus? Why so excited?

Why so keen to give? Why the sudden change of heart?

Idols

Tim Keller in 'Counterfeit Gods'

“Anything more central to your heart, imagination, and sense of worth than God”

“Anything can serve as a counterfeit god, especially the very best things in life.”

Deep Idols

Tim Keller in 'Counterfeit Gods'

Intense negative emotions

Power → Anger

Approval → Fear rejection

Comfort → Avoid responsibility

Control → Anxious

Comparing the encounters

Idolatry of Wealth

Both are wealthy, but wealth traps one and the other is freed from it

The Impossibility of Self-Salvation

One walks away sad as keeping rules cannot buy eternal life - the other receives Jesus as a free gift of grace