

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"MISSING THE KINGDOM BY ONE GARAGE SALE" | LUKE 18: 18-30 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

Would you rather hold a garage sale or visit 10 garage sales?

"The Rich, Young, Powerful, Religious, Moral and Sincere Ruler" (Luke 18: 18-23)

Jesus meets a man who recognizes he's empty and worries if he's missed something even though he's successful and moral.

What are problems with approaching life as a series of checklists? Why do many people still approach life that way?

After the man says he's been good his whole life, Jesus challenges him to give up all his wealth and follow Him.

How can the comfort of money and possessions hold someone back from God's purpose and plan?

"The Disciples" (Luke 18: 24-30)

The disciples are concerned after hearing Jesus say it is difficult for the rich to enter the kingdom of God. Jesus reminds them that with God all things are possible. **What kind of people seem never open to faith today? How can believers still hope for them?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

In this story we see that some people see that Jesus is worth sacrificing for and others can't give up their wealth or position or lifestyle. Jesus promises that in the end, He is more than worthy. **What are you still holding onto that is keeping you from truly following Jesus? Has there been unique opportunities to serve Him that have come up recently? Pray and ask God to make what feels impossible to give up turn into a decision that led to a more fulfilling journey with Him.**

Luke 18:18-30

1-29-23

Missing The Kingdom by One Garage Sale

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. **Slide2-8 Jasmine:** CK. Wntr Camp. Marriage Sem. GS&DC. Job Op. @Risk Movie.
- B. **Slide9-11 JM12: Next Sun!** We hope you will join us for **multiple services** so you can: (1) Hear from Leah Albright-Byrd, speaker & *Lived-Experienced Expert* (10) Attend a workshop (*subject matters experts*) (11) Meet our Partner Organizations
1. We will have burgers & hot dogs for lunch. A special option for all children staying for multiple services, in our new CK Multipurpose Room with a movie and popcorn and a jumper outside.
 2. It will be a full morning of **education & opportunity** (not 1 & done *Perpetual Learners*)
- C. **Slide12 Wed Night Study:** Book of *Ruth* (next 4 weeks) starting this Wed. It's a Love Story, with an Interplay between **God's Purposes** and **Human Decisions**.

II. Slide13 Intro: *Missing The Kingdom by One Garage Sale*

- A. Jesus just *set out on a journey*/Mrk. *Allow everything just to slow down in our scene*.
1. We watch on, as a man comes *face-to-face* with **Jesus**. This man ran up, knelt, and asked the single most important question in life, *what must I do to inherit eternal life?*
 - a) Let this young man represent **everyone of us** this morning.
- B. **Prayer: Your Word** is live/active/effective. You have **truths** to show us today. **So serve us up a *fresh Revelation* of Your Word today, we pray.**
- C. **Backstory:** is found in all 3 synoptic gospels (Mt.19; Mark 10). Not a parable, a real event. He's never actually called *rich young ruler* (we put that together with all 3 accounts). He had a high position in a local synagogue.

III. Slide14 THE RICH, YOUNG, POWERFUL, RELIGIOUS, MORAL, and SINCERE RULER (18-23) *READ All*

A. Slide 15 Lesson 1 - HE WAS **EMPTY** (lacking) (*one thing you still lack*)

1. This guy **wasn't missing** anything *financially, religiously, but* Jesus uses the word **lack!** You lack this. *This poor guy lacked lack.* (he knew it, felt it!)
2. To *inherit eternal life*, you must come **needy**. *Realize you are lacking.*

B. Slide 16a Lesson 2 - HE THOUGHT SALVATION WAS ABOUT **CHECK LIST CHRISTIANITY** (list of do's & don't)

1. He's thinking, *my spiritual life is doing pretty well, check!*
 - a) **What?** You have multiple lives? Are you a cat?
2. He's thinking, *I have my spiritual life, I have my work life, my family life.*
 - a) We try to silo-out our lives, *like the little kid not letting the veggies touch the mashed potatoes.*
3. Slide 16b He's thinking, money (check), young in my prime (check), prestige as a ruler (check), religious life (check), deep-down Spiritual life (**not checked**).
4. He has a **Law issue** (doesn't understand its purpose).
5. He has a **Do issue** (**Jesus**, *let me show you one thing you cannot do*).
 - a) This man was looking for *a very small camel, and a very large needle.*
6. He has a **Grace issue** (it's not Works).
 - a) Jesus sets before him the *rough-rugged-rutted road* of **works**. Your **works** are a liability to your **salvation**, your **works** are a negative benefit.
 - b) Jesus shares this list **NOT** that he may *gain Eternal life* by that, **but that** he might perceive his own shortcomings.
 - c) Jesus brought up the Law not to show him **how** to be saved, but to show him that he **needed** to be saved.

C. Slide 17 Lesson 3 - GOD **LOVES US** WHETHER WE ARE LOYAL TO HIM OR NOT

1. Mark 10:21 *Jesus looking at him, loved him.* (uh prob knew he was going to walk away)
2. It's a reminder again, *God's love is unconditional.* All the way up to our *final breath* when we have absolutely sealed our *choice & destiny.* Then he moves from the possibility of *our Father,* to *positively your Judge.*

D. Slide 18 Lesson 4 - HE LOVED *THINGS* MORE THAN PEOPLE

1. It's a **Covetousness** issue. *The guy missed the Kingdom by one Garage Sale!* [*sell all that you have & distribute to the poor*]
2. It was a covetousness issue **BUT** It was *much more than* just a **Covetousness** issue.
 - a) The rich young ruler demonstrates that you can, *for all practical purposes,* keep the **2nd table** (love for **mankind**, #5-10) even "*from your youth*" without keeping the **1st table** (love for **God**, #1-4).
 - b) **But** you cannot keep the **1st**, without inevitably keeping the **2nd** (Mt 22:36-40 *Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."*)
 - c) Any infraction of the **2nd table** starts with an infraction of the **1st**.
 - d) **So did he keep the 2nd table perfectly? No!** but that's not the point. Jesus didn't argue with the man's *imperfect keeping of the 2nd table of the law*; he illustrated the man's *utter failure to live by the 1st table.*

E. Slide 19 Lesson 5 – HE DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS A **GOOD** ISSUE

1. This is all about the misunderstanding of **good**. Jesus knows where he's going, *thinking that he's a good person,* **that's why** Jesus starts with that question.

a) If you think, *ok, I might not be good, but I am an OK person*. You are severely mistaken ... in the sense of **scale**.

2. Our culture has bought into **humanism**, this idea that human beings are fundamentally, basically good.

a) Jesus walked him straight to the law (but not for salvation, but for illumination). And it's specifically the second table of the law.

b) *He thinks, oh just be good? awesome! I've done that since I was a boy.*

c) Jesus could've said, *What? Did you hear my sermon on the mount? What do you mean? But instead*, he walked him through *his checklist Christianity*.

3. But this man misunderstood the word **Good**. *There is none good no not one*. He thought he himself was good and he also thought Jesus was good. Jesus said no I'm **GOOD!** See, this is all about **JESUS!**

F. Slide20 Lesson 6 – IT'S A **WRONG QUESTION** ISSUE (not *what can I do?*)

1. He should've asked *what must You do for me to inherit eternal life Jesus?*

2. He lacked the element of control over his life that comes from the **outside**, **God**. *Go & sell and come & follow*.

IV. Slide21 **THE DISCIPLES (24-30) READ**

A. Slide22a IT'S A **SACRIFICE** ISSUE

1. Following *the rulers* refusal to *forsake all*, Peter said, **We forsook all!**

a) Jesus seems to overlook any *self-congratulation* here, **but instead** points to **His Own faithfulness**.

b) **Any sacrifice will be more than repaid**. Which seems to make ANY & EVERY sacrifice we can make... **only a temporary sacrifice!**

c) **Eg.** If I say, *give me \$10, & I turn around & give you \$100 now, \$1000 later*. That doesn't sound like a **sacrifice** to give up your \$10 ... **but an investment!**

B. Slide22b IT'S AN **IS IT WORTH IT** ISSUE

1. Peter basically ends w/the question **if I give this up, is it worth it Jesus?**

- a) **Jesus is it worth** remaining single until you bring me a believer?
Is it worth giving up my same-sex attraction? *Is it worth* never been married?
Is it worth being in a difficult marriage? *Is it worth* living paycheck to paycheck my whole entire life? *Is it worth* giving up _____ ?
- b) **Jesus is worth everything you are afraid of losing.**
- c) **Christ is worth all, or He is worth nothing.** George Whitefield
- d) **Jesus** is answering all of those questions, all of your questions ...
Yes, I am worth it ... in this life, and the life to come. I AM WORTH IT!

C. **Slide22c IT'S A POSSIBLE ISSUE** (not impossible)

1. **Impossible with men; possible with God – Two great lessons here:**

- a) **Many have learned the lesson** *it's Impossible with men*. **Then** shrugging their shoulders they **give up** *in hopeless despair*. **And then** live a *miserable religious life, without joy, strength or victory*.
- b) **Others learn all things are Possible with God**. It is possible even for a rich man to enter the kingdom with God. When a man becomes *linked up with God*, all impossible things become possible!

D. Do our lifestyles cause us to choose what is **convenient** and what is **safe**, or do we seek the road less traveled?

E. Are the momentary comforts of money and possessions holding me back from what I really desire in life, or, even more, from the dream God has place in my heart?

F. Is Jesus challenging you to follow Him **on a special journey**? Will you have the strength to go? **Or**, like the rich Young Ruler, will you just go away sad?

G. If you've ever read about **Francis of Assisi** (my confirmation name) and his dedication to turn over everything he had to God's control. Francis had a lot in common with the rich man in our story, but he responded differently to God's invitation to give away his wealth (an act his dad was not happy about). One story particularly highlights

his obedience: Francis gave away his cloak quite regularly and he was finally ordered by a superior to stop. Coming upon a man who needed a cloak soon after, Francis said to him, *“I cannot give you this cloak, but perhaps if you took it from me...”*

H. Keywords: goodness, commandments, salvation, law.