


Entering the Kingdom of God


Luke 18:15 - 30

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Overview

- This entire section is about entering the kingdom of God
- The passage about children illustrates the attitude of those who enter the kingdom
- The rich ruler needed to give up his status in this world, but would not
- Salvation is only possible with God
- True disciples are cared for by the Lord in this life and the next



The disciples do not understand God's priorities

- **Luke 18:15**

And they were bringing even their babies to Him so that He would touch them, but when the disciples saw it, they began rebuking them.

Those who enter the kingdom must come with no status in their own eyes

■ **Luke 18:16, 17**

But Jesus called for them, saying, “Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all.”

Inverse parallel structure

1 Inherit eternal life

2 Five old requirements

3 The demands of the new obedience

4 The new obedience seen as too hard

5 The Camel and the Needle

4' The new obedience: possible only with God

3' The demands of the new obedience fulfilled

2' Five new requirements: house, wife, brothers, parents, children

1' Receive eternal life (adapted from Bailey *Peasant Eyes*)

Parallel terms in Luke 18:18-30

■ Inherit Eternal Life (verses 18, 30)

■ Enter the Kingdom of God (24, 25,)

■ Saved (26)

■ Follow Jesus (22, 28)

■ Treasure in heaven (22)



Theme: eternal life

■ Luke 18:18, 19

A ruler questioned Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone."



Five Commandments

■ Luke 18:20

You know the commandments, "Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother."



Loyalty to Jesus is more important than anything else

■ Luke 18:21, 22

And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." When Jesus heard this, He said to him, "One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

He isn't willing to lose his status in this world and follow Jesus

■ **Luke 18:23, 24**

But when he had heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. And Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!"

Impossible!

■ **Luke 18:25, 26**

"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." They who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?"

Salvation is a work of God alone

■ **Luke 18:27**

But He said, "The things that are impossible with people are possible with God."

The disciples are followers

- Luke 18:28**

Peter said, “Behold, we have left our own homes and followed You.”
- Luke 5:11**

When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

Disciples are willing to give up what no Middle Eastern person would give up

- Luke 18:29, 30**

And He said to them, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come, eternal life.”

Implications and Applications

- Salvation is a work of God alone
- The life of faith is defined as loyalty to Jesus
- We cannot allow anything in this life to keep us from following Jesus in obedience

1) Salvation is a work of God alone

■ **Ephesians 2:8, 9**

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

1) Salvation is a work of God alone

■ **1Corinthians 1:30, 31**

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, “Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

1) Salvation is a work of God alone

■ **2Corinthians 4:6**

For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

2) The life of faith is defined as loyalty to Jesus

■ **1Peter 1:1, 2**

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

2) The life of faith is defined as loyalty to Jesus

■ **Romans 13:14**

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

3) We cannot allow anything in this life to keep us from following Jesus in obedience

■ **Philippians 3:7, 8**

But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,

3) We cannot allow anything in this life to keep us from following Jesus in obedience

■ **Philippians 3:18 - 20**

For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;
