

# Message Notes

## What must I do to inherit eternal life?

# Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

**Introduction** - "A thank you to Moms"

**Last week in the Gospel of Luke**

*Comparisons/Little Children - Luke 18:14-17*

**Today's Message:**

*"What must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

Luke 18:18-30

**Q and A with Jesus - Luke 18:18-23**

*The Question - 18:18*

*Why do you call me "good?" - 18:19*

*How to inherit eternal life - 18:20*

*Are we saved by works?*

Leviticus 18:5, Romans 8:4, Galatians 4:4,  
2 Corinthians 5:21

*Why these commandments?*

Exodus 20

*A bold response - 18:21*

*Jesus' wise answer - 18:22*

*The exposure of the man's heart - 18:23*

**A Story to Clarify - Luke 18:24-25**

A camel?

**The Shock among the hearers - Luke 18:26-30**

*What?!?! - 18:26*

*You heard me right - it is impossible! - 18:27*

*Um, what about us, Jesus? - 18:28*

*The Promise of the Impossible - 18:29-30*

**How do rich (or poor) people inherit eternal life?**

Repent (DETHRONE all else)

Believe (ENTHRONE Jesus Christ)

Be Baptized (Publically Confess)

1 Timothy 6:6-11,17-19

**Gospel Application** - "What needs dethroning?"

**Luke 18:18-30**

<sup>18</sup>A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>19</sup>"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered.

<sup>20</sup>"No one is good - except God alone. <sup>20</sup>You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'"

<sup>21</sup>"All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said.

<sup>22</sup>When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

<sup>23</sup>When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy. <sup>24</sup>Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

<sup>26</sup>Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?"

<sup>27</sup>Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."

<sup>28</sup>Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!"

<sup>29</sup>"Truly I tell you," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God <sup>30</sup>will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come, eternal life."

**1 Timothy 6:6-11, 17-19**

<sup>6</sup>But godliness with contentment is great gain.

<sup>7</sup>For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. <sup>8</sup>But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. <sup>9</sup>Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

<sup>11</sup>But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness... <sup>17</sup>Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

<sup>18</sup>Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup>In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.



HAPPY  
MOTHER'S DAY

The Gospel of  
**LUKE**

Setting His Face to Jerusalem  
Luke 9:51 to Luke 19:44

## Luke 18:9-17

<sup>14</sup>“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

## Luke 18:9-17

<sup>15</sup>People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them.

## Luke 18:9-17

<sup>16</sup>But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>17</sup>Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

## Luke 18:18-30

<sup>18</sup>A certain ruler asked him,

“Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>19</sup>“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good – except God alone.

## Luke 18:18-30

<sup>20</sup>You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’”

<sup>21</sup>“All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said.

## Luke 18:18-30

<sup>22</sup>When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

<sup>23</sup>When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy.

## Luke 18:18-30

<sup>24</sup>Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

## Luke 18:18-30

<sup>26</sup>Those who heard this asked,  
“Who then can be saved?”

<sup>27</sup>Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

## Luke 18:18-30

<sup>28</sup>Peter said to him,

“We have left all we had to follow you!”

## Luke 18:18-30

<sup>29</sup>“Truly I tell you,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God <sup>30</sup>will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come, eternal life.”

**Today's Message:**  
*"How do I inherit  
eternal life"*  
Luke 18:18-30



# Q and A with Jesus

## *The Question*

**Luke 18:18**

<sup>18</sup>A certain ruler asked him,

“Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

# Q and A with Jesus

*Why do you call me “good?”*

## Luke 18:19

<sup>18</sup>A certain ruler asked him,  
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<sup>19</sup>“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered.  
“No one is good – except God alone.

[I]n addressing him as “Good Teacher” the ruler is engaged in a word game deeply rooted in concerns with status. According to this linguistic system, one commendation deserves another. Thus, even in the way the ruler addresses Jesus he signifies his commitment to a particular set of conventions, his identity within a particular social group, and his understanding of the speech event he has initiated. Jesus’ counterstatement concerning God’s goodness thus not only echoes an important scriptural motif<sup>140</sup> but also serves notice that the terms of this interaction will not be set by the standard values to which the ruler has already paid homage.

~ Joel B. Green, *The Gospel of Luke*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1997), 655.

# Q and A with Jesus

*Here's how to inherit eternal life*

## Luke 18:20

<sup>20</sup>You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'"

**Are we saved by “works?”**

# Are we saved by “works?”

**Leviticus 18:5**

Keep my decrees and laws, for the person who obeys them will live by them.

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**Leviticus 18:5**

Keep my decrees and laws, for the person who obeys them will live by them.

**Galatians 4:4-5**

<sup>4</sup>But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

# Are we saved by “works?”

## Romans 8:3-4

<sup>3</sup>For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

# Are we saved by “works?”

## 2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

# Q and A with Jesus

## *Why these commandments?*

**Luke 18:20**

<sup>20</sup>You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’”

## **Exodus 20:1-17**

<sup>1</sup>And God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup>“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

- <sup>3</sup> “You shall have no other gods before me.
- <sup>4</sup> “You shall not make for yourself an image...
- <sup>7</sup> “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God...
- <sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy...
- <sup>12</sup> “Honor your father and your mother...
- <sup>13</sup> “You shall not murder.
- <sup>14</sup> “You shall not commit adultery.
- <sup>15</sup> “You shall not steal.
- <sup>16</sup> “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
- <sup>17</sup> “You shall not covet...

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# Q and A with Jesus

## *The bold response*

### **Luke 18:21**

<sup>20</sup>You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’”

<sup>21</sup>“All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said.

# Q and A with Jesus

## *Jesus' wise answer*

### **Luke 18:22**

<sup>22</sup>When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

## Luke 10:41-42

<sup>41</sup>“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, <sup>42</sup>but few things are needed – or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

In short, Jesus' answer to the ruler's question takes seriously how wealth is intricately spun together with issues of status, power, and social privilege. His answer has the dual effect of defining the commitments and behaviors characteristic of the community of his followers and of undercutting completely the social conventions that governed the ruler's life and community. The kingdom of God calls for including the marginalized in one's circle of kin, for the abolition of status disjunctions, for giving without expectation of return – deviant behavior all, behavior that would lead to the ruler's loss of social standing *and* to his capacity to identify with the poor for whom the good news has come (cf. 4:18–19)

~ Joel B. Green, *The Gospel of Luke*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1997), 656–657.

# Q and A with Jesus

## *The exposure of the man's heart*

### **Luke 18:23**

<sup>22</sup>When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.

Then come, follow me.”

<sup>23</sup>When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy.

One must observe at close range the lengths to which a Middle Eastern family will go to keep a part of the extended family in the ancestral home (even in today's mobile society) to sense the thrust of what is demanded of the ruler. He is asked to place loyalty to the person of Jesus higher than loyalty to his family and his family estate, for in a very deep sense the latter two are one. Abraham was faced with a similar type of demand on two occasions. He left his estate in Ur in a response of obedience.



Then on Mount Moriah God required of him a willingness to put his obedience to God on a higher level than his loyalty to his own family. Abraham passed that great test of obedience/faith. The ruler failed even on the first type of test. Had he measured up to the demand he might have received his estate back as a gift of God to be used in His service.

~ Kenneth E. Bailey, *Poet & Peasant and Through Peasant Eyes: A Literary-Cultural Approach to the Parables in Luke*, Combined Edition., vol. 2 (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1983), 164.



# A Story to Clarify

## Luke 18:24-25

<sup>24</sup>Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

# A Story to Clarify

*“Camel through an eye of a needle”*

**Luke 18:24-25**

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Ancient Roman, c. 1st - 3rd century AD. Lovely bronze sewing needle. 116 mm (4 1/2") long with nice reddish-brown patina. ex-J. Rilling collection, Orange County, CA. Still could be used to sew today! #AR2399: \$150



Push harder, dude!

# The shock among the hearers

*What?!?!?*

**Luke 18:26**

<sup>26</sup>Those who heard this asked,  
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# The shock among the hearers

*You heard me right – it is impossible!*

## Luke 18:27

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No one unaided *enters* the kingdom. No one achieves great things and *inherits* eternal life. An inheritance is a gift, not an earned right. No one has rights in the kingdom, not even rich men with all their potential for good works. Indeed, if Jesus had given the rich man a list of expensive good works to be funded or carried out, the ruler would likely have begun on them with great enthusiasm. Rather, he is told that his best efforts are worthless in the achievement of his goal of *entering* the kingdom. Salvation is impossible with men and possible only with God. As Marshall succinctly states, “God can work the miracle of conversion in the hearts even of the rich.”

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# The shock among the hearers

*Um... what about us, Jesus?*

**Luke 18:28**

<sup>28</sup>Peter said to him,

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# The shock among the hearers

## *The Promise of the Impossible!*

**Luke 18:29-30**

<sup>29</sup>“Truly I tell you,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God <sup>30</sup>will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come, eternal life.”

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<sup>11</sup>But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness...

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# Inheriting Eternal Life:

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Repent (DETHRONE all else)

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Believe (ENTHRONE Jesus Christ)

# Inheriting Eternal Life:

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**Be Baptized (Publically Confess)**

# Gospel Application

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What needs dethroning?