

# The Gospel of Luke

## Lesson 33: Luke 18:1-43

The King offered the riches of His kingdom—“*Sell all that you have... and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me*” (Luke 18:22, NKJV)—but he chose to keep his earthly fortune. Deeply sorrowful, the rich young ruler left Christ’s presence with his idols clutched tightly in his hand.

The man failed not because he possessed great riches, but because he refused to grant Christ access to his whole life. What he did not realize was that the self-preserving limitations he placed upon his obedience to Christ were that which threatened a relationship with Him.

As long as he surrendered in part, he would experience Christ in part. When he surrendered in full, he would experience Christ in His entirety.

### *Read Luke 18:1-8.*

1. Jesus concludes His discourse on the days preceding His coming by instructing men to pray always and not lose heart. Why is this instruction necessary?
2. How does the judge reflect mankind during the last days? (v.2)
3. What will God’s delay elicit in the hearts of men? Read Matthew 24:48-49 and 2 Peter 3:4.
4. In verse 3 of Luke 18, the word *adversary* is *antidikos*; the same word used of Satan in 1 Peter 5:8. What does this reveal about the justice the widow seeks?

5. How does God the Father differ from the judge?
6. What attribute of the widow gained the attention of the judge? Why is this trait necessary to maintain one's faith under such circumstances?
7. With whom does God bear long? (v.7)

The phrase *bears long* in verse 7 of Luke 18, is the same word translated *longsuffering* in 2 Peter 3:9 (*makrothymeos*). What then is God's purpose in delay?

8. Per verse 8 of Luke 18, what will God do on behalf of His elect?
9. "When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith upon the earth?" (v.8) Faith, or *pistis* in the Greek, means "strong confidence in, and reliance upon Someone or something." According to this verse, what will ultimately be under attack?

*Read Luke 18: 9-14.*

10. What reasons did the Pharisee have to exalt himself above the tax collector? What danger lies in comparing yourself to another?

11. If you were to observe these men's lives without knowledge of their heart-dialogue (vv.11-13) which would appear to be righteous?

12. With whom was God pleased? Why? (v.9)

13. Reread verse 9 of Luke 18. How does a self-righteousness profit a man in eternity?

Read Proverbs 30:12, Luke 16:15, and 1 John 1:8-10, 4:20-21.

*Keep reading in Luke, verses 15-17.*

14. Why might the disciples have thought that ministry to children was less important than ministering to adults?

15. What could the disciples learn from the children before them?

*Read verses 18-30 of Luke 18.*

16. Like the Pharisee (vv.9-14), why would those who observed the rich young ruler's life deem him heaven-worthy?

17. The rich ruler approached Christ in earnestness and humility (Mark 10:17), but as soon as he was given instruction, his heart was made manifest. What was asked of him? How did he respond?

How would you respond?

18. Why is it hard for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God? (v.25)

19. If a man will not part with that which God has required, what has it become?

20. While the ruler's riches were not evil in and of themselves, his attachment to them prevented him from surrendering fully. What parameters did he place upon his obedience to God?

While we surrender in part we will not experience Christ in full. Consider Luke 8:14.

21. According to verse 26 of Luke 18, can a rich man love God first and best? How?

22. What did Christ desire to give the rich young ruler? (vv.29-30)

*Keep reading in Luke 18, verses 31-43.*

23. Christ spoke plainly but the disciples didn't hear. (Read also Matthew 19:28 and Mark 10:35-45.) Considering their conversation, what were they focused upon?

24. Undoubtedly, it was difficult for the disciples to reconcile Christ as King and Christ as Suffering Messiah. Matthew Henry notes, "[They were] so intent upon the prophecies that spoke of His glory, that they overlooked those that spoke of His suffering". Like the disciples, we hear "*thrones*" while overlooking the fact that "*through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God*".

How can our expectations and prejudices cause us to discard the truth or refuse to understand it literally?

25. Why do you think that those "*who went before*" (18:39) sought to quiet the needy man?

26. How did the blind man disdain their instruction? (v. 39) How is he like the persistent widow?

27. The blind man was granted access to the only One who could grant him his heart's desire. *"What do you want me to do for you?"* (v.41) *"Ask and it shall be given to you"* (11:9). For what would you ask?

In closing, Isaiah 65:24 says, *"It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear."*