

The Rich Young Ruler: The Cost of Eternal Life

Luke 18: 18–30

(Mt. 19:16-30; Mk. 10:17-31)

1. *Example 1: The ruler*

- a. He must acknowledge Jesus as God
 - 1) Ruler called Him “Good Teacher”
 - 2) God is the only good one
 - 3) Jesus asked:
Are you calling me God?

- b. He must keep the commandments

- c. He must *give up* all that he has

- d. He rejects sorrowfully

2. *Example 2: The wealthy*

- a. It is difficult
for a wealthy person
to enter God’s Kingdom

- b. The misconception
about wealthy persons

- c. The only possible way
for wealthy persons to be saved:
God

18 A certain ruler asked him,
“Good teacher,
what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

19 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered.
“No one is good - except God alone.

20 You know the commandments:
‘Do not commit adultery,
do not murder,
do not steal,
do not give false testimony,
honour your father and mother.’”

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

22 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.”

23 When he heard this,
he became very sad,
because he was a man of great wealth.

24 Jesus looked at him and said,
“How hard it is for the rich
to enter the kingdom of God!

25 Indeed,
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.”

26 Those who heard this asked,
“Who then can be saved?”

27 Jesus replied,
“What is impossible with men
is possible with God.”

3. Example 3: The disciples

a. They left all to follow Christ

b. They and all other followers shall be greatly rewarded

1) In this world:
“Much more”

2) In the world to come:
“Eternal life”

28 Peter said to him,
“We have left all we had
to follow you!”

29 “I tell you the truth,”
Jesus said to them,
“no one who has left home
or wife or brothers
or parents or children
for the sake of the kingdom of God

30 Will fail to receive
many times as much in this age
and,
in the age to come,
eternal life.”