

The Rich Young Ruler  
Luke 18:18-30

Intro: It's been almost seven years since Erika, a former member of this class lost her two-year granddaughter when a truck accidentally backed over her. It was devastating! She and I went out for coffee and I'll never forget her question? "Why? Why would God allow my granddaughter to be run over by a truck when I prayed for her protection?"

How would you answer that question?

Two years ago on September 26<sup>th</sup>, an American Pastor went home to visit his family in Iran and the Iranian authorities put him in prison for his faith. At a prayer vigil in Washington DC, his wife read a letter from her husband to their daughter that he had written for her 8<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 12<sup>th</sup>. In this letter he addresses the heart of his eight-year old daughter as she asks the question, "why?"

This is a slightly edited version of that letter...

This is his prison epistle and he answers in much the same a way as another man centuries ago. The answer to the question WHY is \_\_\_\_\_.

Read Luke 18:18-30

**Rich Young Ruler** (Mt. 19:20; Mk 10:17)

**"Good Teacher"**

Jesus reminds him that no one is good except \_\_\_\_\_. There is not one example in the whole Talmud of a rabbi being addressed this way! It was \_\_\_\_\_ flattery.

Jesus uses his comment to give him reason to reflect on what he is saying – not only about God, but about \_\_\_\_\_.

**Jesus reminds him of The Commandments** (Ex. 20:1-17)

Most scholars divide the commandments into two parts.

1-4 Our love for \_\_\_\_\_.

5-10 Our love for \_\_\_\_\_.

Which part of the commandments does Jesus quote first?

Jesus is not ignoring his love for God, but addresses it in a different way. How?

What does the Rich Young Ruler's answer reveal?

**Jesus responds, "It is hard for the wealthy to enter the kingdom of God."**

Why is it hard for the wealthy to enter into heaven?

The Jewish view of the rich was that they were \_\_\_\_\_ by God. It was seen as God's approval. Therefore, it was commonly thought that rich people were good candidates for heaven.

**"it is easier for a camel to go through an eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."**

Various interpretations

- gate
- misspelled word
- hyperbole

Jesus destroys this notion, and along with it, the idea that ANYONE can earn eternal life!

Jesus's answer is the basis for the gospel!

**"With man it is impossible, but with God all things are possible."**

*"For by \_\_\_\_\_ you have been saved through \_\_\_\_\_; and that not of ourselves, it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God; not as a result of \_\_\_\_\_, that no one should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9*

**Peter's response, "But we've left everything and followed you!"**

**Jesus responds. “It will be worth it! Those who leave everything, including their homes and families, and follow Me, will receive blessings many times over in the \_\_\_\_\_ age and in the age to \_\_\_\_\_.”**

THE STUFF OF LIFE IS TEMPORARY, BUT WHAT IS DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST. THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION “WHY” IS “WHO”!