



## PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

# Luke 18:15-27; Mark 10:16

## LESSON: CHILDLIKE FAITH – May 22, 2016

### INTRODUCTION:

At the beginning of **Chapter 18** there are two parables: 1) The Parable of the Unjust Judge. The conclusion would be to pray and not faint, for God will avenge the adversary of the elect. He's looking for faith, faith that perseveres in prayer. 2) The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican. The conclusion is that everyone that exalts himself shall be humbled and he that humbles himself shall be exalted.

### LESSON: I. SIMPLICITY OF FAITH Lk.18:15-17; Mk.10:16

**Luke 18:15** And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them. It was customary for a mother to bring her children to a rabbi for a blessing. The verse says they also brought unto Jesus infants that He would touch them. They believed that His touch would bring blessings to their children's lives. However, when the disciples saw it, the disciples rebuked them; refusing to let them reach Jesus.

- The disciples were determining who could and who could not be touched by Jesus. Of course, no man has the right to do that.
- The disciples thought the children were unworthy of the Master's time.
- The disciples were not grasping the importance of Jesus' touch, even for little children. Their understanding of the blessing and power of God was immature. No one should ever be stopped or discouraged from coming to Jesus.

**18:16** But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. But, Jesus welcomed the little children to come to Him. He didn't forbid them because for "*the kingdom of God belongs to such*"—children that have the kind of faith and trust needed to enter God's Kingdom—simple childlike faith. It is important to introduce our children to Jesus.

**18:17** Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein. Jesus loved children and declared that adults must receive His message in simple trusting childlike faith if they would be saved.

**Mark 10:16** And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them. Jesus received the children in love by taking them in His arms, placing His hands upon them, and blessing them. We see the Saviors' heart and His hands at work. It reveals that children hold a special place in His heart. It also shows, He took the time and placed His hands on each and every child there and blessed them. Childlike faith is needed in the next passage, when a certain Ruler comes to Jesus.



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## II. CHALLENGE TO FAITH 18:18-22

**18:18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?**

Luke is now stressing the cost of Eternal Life. A certain ruler (not named—could be any of us) comes to Jesus asking a question, and calling Him Good Master. We are reminded of when Nicodemus, the Pharisee and ruler of the Jews came to Jesus; he called Him "Rabbi" which means "Teacher." He said "...*thou art a teacher come from God...no man can do theses miracles...except God be with Him.*" He was on the right track about who Jesus was. So, this certain ruler asks, "*What should I to do to inherit eternal life?*" "*What must I do to be saved?*" This was a good question and he went to the right source. It shows that he believed Eternal Life existed. Jesus is our Eternal Life and our Salvation, but it cannot just be inherited. Jesus says it's a free gift from God (Eph.2:8) upon our faith in Christ and His atoning work.

**18:19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.** So

Jesus pushes for the reason this man calls Him Good. He was really asking, "*Do you really know who I am?*" He didn't call Jesus, "*Lord.*" He called Him "*Good Master.*" "*Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God.*" He was saying, 'If I am but a mere man, a good teacher, then I am not "good", and do not have the words to eternal life. But, if I am God, then you can address me as "*good*" and I do have the words to eternal life.' The person who seeks eternal life must acknowledge Jesus as God. Therefore, by Jesus being the words to eternal life, then He is good and He is God!

**18:20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.** Jesus responded by referring to the commandments:

*"do not commit adultery, do not kill, do not steal, do not bear false witness, defraud not, and honor thy father and mother."* Keeping the commandments God gave to Moses thousands of years earlier was very important.

**18:21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.** The ruler answered quickly making a

phenomenal claim to keeping those commandments since he was a youth. He might have thought he kept them, but, of course, he had had not kept them perfectly, not in God's eyes, not in the spirit in which God intended them to be kept. If the Israelites couldn't, and even in today's era, we know he couldn't.

**18:22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.**

Yes, Jesus heard him; He heard where his heart was (doing what he thought was right by keeping the religious laws, even from a youth to please God). But, God had to burst his bubble. Of all the things he was doing, he still lacked one thing. Wow! Can we see ourselves? We're doing all we know to do within our power and we could lack one thing. Now, that's scary! The one thing the ruler lacked was holding on to treasure on earth. Jesus told the ruler to sell all he had and distribute it to the poor. Why? Well, 1) Jesus says then he shall have treasure in heaven; then, 2) you can come follow "Me". I know the man wasn't looking to hear this! Are we shutting our eyes to the poor? Are we hoarding our money? Or, are we considering ourselves as being among the poor

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and somebody needs to help us? You say you can't help anybody, for you need help yourself? But **we can help**. Matthew 6:21 says, "*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*" And if the heart is set upon gaining the world, then our soul will be in danger. My mind thinks back to the flood we've just had, and so many people have lost their homes, and don't have flood insurance to start over again; lost loved ones, lost jobs because some businesses can't get the funds to start over; and lost other material things that can't be replaced. Do we see that our treasure on earth can be lost in a second? The ruler wasn't looking for treasure in heaven; he still wanted his treasure down here on earth. And he surely wasn't looking to follow Jesus; that meant he would have to leave what he had accumulated. So if we want to keep and not give, then, our hearts are in the wrong place. And, to follow Christ is to deny self completely—all that we are and all that we have. To deny self is a hard saying, but Christ demands it. Our attempt to soften it does not annul His demand. The poor is all around us. If we close our hand into a fist, then Jesus can't get anything into it. Are we listening to the voice of God?

## III. REWARD FOR FAITH 18:23-27

**18:23 And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.** Rest assured, God is listening to our hearts. The certain ruler had asked a question, but was not ready for Jesus' response, for he was very sorrowful. Why? - Because he was **very rich**. Yes, Jesus had answered this same question when a lawyer came to Him in Luke 10:25-28, but, Jesus gave him a different answer. Jesus had already seen in the lawyer's heart and in the ruler's heart the rejection. For the ruler he had rejected Jesus for three reasons. All these things had become his stumbling blocks:

1. Unbelief –He was not willing to entrust his life to Jesus.
2. Self-righteousness and pride –His concept of religion was keeping laws and doing good in order to secure God's acceptance.
3. Love of the world –He was rich and unwilling to give up the comfort and possessions he had obtained
  - a. He loved the things of the world more than he loved people.
  - b. He loved the things of the world more than he loved the hope of eternal life.
  - c. He loved the position, recognition, esteem, and power of the earth more than he loved Christ.

**18:24 And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!** This ruler's sorrow seen by Jesus, prompted Jesus to say, "*How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!*" This was a shock to His disciples because the Jews of Jesus' day thought that riches signified the favor of God.

**18:25 For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.** We cannot enter heaven without Jesus, just as a camel could not squeeze through a needle's eye without help. The "*needle's eye*" was the small gateway where a camel had to have everything taken off of him; be unloaded, and then kneel down on all fours to go through the small opening of the door (the gateway). The kingdom of God demands trusting in God completely and totally without being loaded down with difficulties; get rid of the stumbling blocks. This ruler had stumbling blocks on his way to salvation. These difficulties were causing his riches to rule him. Eternal Life is a gift from God that no man can earn.

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**18:26 And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved?** Therefore, upon hearing what Jesus said and looking at the point of view of being rich and allowing the riches to be a stumbling block to be saved made those who heard it ask "*Who then can be saved?*" This astonished them! The illustration shows <sup>1</sup>a wealthy person has a difficult time making anyone their Lord. They are in the habit of being lord and master themselves. They do not want to lose control of their life or their money. Jesus will not be your Saviour unless He can be your Lord, as well.

**18:27 And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.** Jesus immediately had to stir up their faith by saying that humanly, this thing is impossible. Rich people cannot by their own skill or resolution make it possible or any other man. But, if you have God, the One who makes all things possible, well, then it's possible! And those that come to Jesus must have faith!

## SUMMARY:

Children were brought to Jesus to be touched but the disciples didn't want that to happen. Jesus instructed them to allow the children to come; so forbidding them, for such is apart of My kingdom. Whoever that does not come like a little child; having childlike faith won't be able to enter into the kingdom. Jesus began to take the children into His arms and place his hands upon them to touch them and bless them (**Lk.18:15-17; Mk.10:16**).

A certain ruler calls Jesus Good Master and wants to know what he has to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus really wants to know why he called him good because none is good except one and that's God. Jesus asks also about the commandments that have to do with relations with man which deal with outward acts. The ruler conveys that he's kept those commandments since his youth. Jesus heard everything the certain ruler said and ands there's one thing he lacks. He didn't know that this would deal with his treasure he has accumulated. So, Jesus tells him to sell all he has and distribute it among the poor. Why? Then he will have treasure in heaven. Then he was to come and follow Jesus. Why? - Because he had more to learn about inheriting eternal life. Eternal Life is a gift from God that no man can earn. His faith would be challenged (**Lk.18:18-22**).

Upon hearing this, the ruler became sorrowful because he wasn't ready to give away any of his riches. And Jesus was also sorrowful and began to expound that it would be difficult for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. It would be easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. Well, others that heard this began to comment, "*Who then can be saved?*" Jesus tells them that they can't look to man for this kind of help. This would only be possible with God's help. Then if they consider Him to be good, then God's help was there. If they, like the children, wanting the Master's touch, and having that childlike faith in the God of impossibilities, then, it would be in Jesus! (**Lk.18:23-27**).

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/luke/45.html>  
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>