

FAITH

DATE: SUNDAY, 19TH OF JULY 2020 | ANGUS BUCHAN

LUKE 18:18-30

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

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. 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.'"

"All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said.

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."

When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy. Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! 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."

Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?"

Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."

Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!"

"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 will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life."

NOTE TO LEADERS:

We're looking forward to our drive-through "communion and coffee" this Sunday, the 26th of July. The Greenmeadow Lane entrance will be open from 8:30am to 11:30am. Please come through to say "Hi" and enjoy a coffee on us. Our CityHill Kids team also has something special for the kids.

START TALKING

1. What was one thing from Sunday's message that challenged you?
2. What can you celebrate this week?

START THINKING

1. Looking back at your life, what was it about the Gospel message that got through to you and resulted in you choosing to follow Jesus? Do you still have the same passion about that message?
2. Read the story of the rich young ruler in Luke 18:18-23. How do you think Jesus's instructions to the rich young ruler to "sell everything, give it to the poor, and follow" Him apply to us today? What worldly treasures or pleasures or dreams (or even comforts and securities) is He asking you to give up for His sake?

START SHARING

1. Read the story of the rich young ruler in Luke 18:18-30. Peter was concerned about the sacrifices he had made to follow Jesus (v28). What are some examples of sacrifices modern Christ-followers might be asked to make? How does the promise in verse 29 apply to your life?
2. What is the one thing you learned this week? How can you apply to your life? How can you tell others?

START PRAYING

Take some time to share praise reports and prayer requests with the group.

START DOING

It's been 18 weeks since we've been able to meet together in our church building. Are you aware of someone whose faith has been challenged during this time? What encouragement could you offer them? How are you going to reach out to them this week?

SUMMARY

OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

This Sunday, Angus stirred us to action with a challenging message on Faith. In Mark 11:22, Jesus tells us to *"Have faith in God"*. We cannot serve Him and finish "the race" strong without faith.

The reward of faith is to see what you believe, and as followers of Christ, we are going to see the coming of the Lord. No one knows the exact date or time when Jesus is returning - only His Father in heaven knows - but we can be sure that we will see Him. Signs in the world point to His coming - He is on the way!

Angus shared the story of a young man who has turned his back on God - much like the story of the rich young ruler in the Bible (Luke 18, Mark 10 and Matthew 19). We pick up the story in Luke, where Jesus is about to leave the town. It is the man's last chance to ask his question, to meet Jesus face-to-face: *A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"* Luke 18:18.

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.'

"All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said.

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."

When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy. Luke 18: 20-23. The rich young ruler walks away into a lost eternity, and Jesus doesn't run after him.

In Hebrews 11:6 Paul tells us that *without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.* Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV). Diligently seeking God means spending time with Him in prayer and meditation, in His Word, in like-minded Christian community.

Some may be doubting their faith in God because of what's going on in the world. But as Christ-followers we can still expect to encounter trouble and strife - the difference is that we don't go through difficult times alone, Jesus is right there with us - every step of the way. And He uses the difficult times we go through to help us grow stronger. When you don't have God in your life it's like living in a black empty hole. But in His presence there is peace, love, joy...

In Luke 21:26-28 we read that *"It will seem like all hell has broken loose—sun, moon, stars, earth, sea, in an uproar and everyone all over the world in a panic, the wind knocked out of them by the threat of doom, the powers-that-be quaking.*

"And then—then!—they'll see the Son of Man welcomed in grand style—a glorious welcome! When all this starts to happen, up on your feet. Stand tall with your heads high. Help is on the way!" (The Message)

We need to consider where we stand in our faith. A time is coming where we'll be separated into those that will join the doubters and unbelievers, and those that say: *Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.* Job 13:15. It's time to get our priorities in order and not to let our faith be shaken by what's going on in the world around us. That means that God needs to be first in our lives - ahead of our family, finances and other aspects of our lives where we might place more importance than on Him. Now is not the time to doubt the existence of God. It's time to believe in Him. God is with us. *"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."* Matthew 1:23.

Luke 21:26-28 in the Amplified Bible reads: *people fainting from fear and expectation of the [dreadful] things coming on the world; for the [very] powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with [transcendent, overwhelming] power [subduing the nations] and with great glory. Now when these things begin to occur, stand tall and lift up your heads [in joy], because [suffering ends as] your redemption is drawing near.* It sounds much like what is going on in the world right now. For the first time in 3,000 years we were unable to meet together for Passover/Easter. The last time this happened was in Egypt before the Israelite slaves were set free.

This is not a coincidence. These are the signs the Bible speaks of. A time is coming *where at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* (Philippians 2:10-11).