

Our goal in studying the Bible is two-fold. One part of the goal as we read is to engage with our **mind**, to grow in our knowledge of who God is as he has revealed himself in his word. The other part of our goal is to engage with our **heart**, by responding to God as we read with our love, praise, gratitude, confession, needs, questions, and desires.

Engaging with our mind *and* heart as we seek the help of the Holy Spirit helps us grow in an intimate relationship with God through Jesus our Savior as we see him more clearly, know him better and love him more.

Day 1- Read Luke 18

- How is God revealed in this chapter? What is he like? Who is Jesus shown to be? What is he like?

Pray: Spend time in adoration and thanksgiving.

- What is human nature shown to be like in this chapter? Is this true of you in your life right now?

Pray: Spend time in confession and repentance.

- What does this passage of Scripture show that you need from God? How does your heart need to move to align with what you see in Scripture? Is there something you need to believe? Is there action you need to take?

Pray: Spend time asking God for what you need to live for him.

Meditation: Luke 18:29-30 "And he said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life.'"

Day 2- Luke 18:1-8

1. What was Jesus' purpose, stated in verse 1, in telling this parable to his disciples?

2. What was it that the widow in the story wanted from the judge according to verse 3?

3. As he often does, Jesus, in verses 6-7 uses the argument from the lesser to the greater. If a judge who doesn't fear God or respect man grants the widow justice then most certainly what will our loving, wise God do?

4. Jesus has been talking to his disciples about his second coming, how it will be visible to all, and sudden and how once he is gone from them, they will long for him to come again. It is in this context that he tells the parable and encourages his followers to pray and not give up. What is it then, that we should specifically be praying for, implied in verse 8 and fitting with the context?

Day 3- Luke 18:9-17

5. Who is Jesus directing this parable to according to verse 9?

-Who are you tempted to treat with contempt?

Scholar's Note: "In today's culture, the closest social equivalent [to the tax collector of Jesus' day] would be drug pushers and pimps, those who prey on society, who make money off others' bodies and make a living of stealing from others.¹"

6. How did the Pharisee approach God?

7. How did the tax collector approach God?

8. What did the Pharisee base his standing with God on?

9. Why was the tax collector declared righteous before God (justified) according to Jesus in verse 14?

Scholar's Note: "As many commentators have pointed out, the man's plea for mercy should be understood as linked to the temple and its system of sacrifices for forgiveness. He is asking for God's mercy not on the basis of his own goodness (for he has very little), but on God's commitment to be merciful to sinners through the sacrifices taking place in the temple."²



Almost none of us would say that we believe in a works based righteousness like the Pharisees practiced. Yet in reality we are very prone to living like that is true, albeit in very subtle ways that sometimes we ourselves don't even realize.

Reflect on these thoughts to see if you are approaching God like a Pharisee would.

- ❖ Do you feel like God doesn't love you when you fail or sin?
- ❖ Do you feel like God loves you more when you read your Bible everyday and pray?
- ❖ Do you feel proud of your own goodness?
- ❖ Do you compare yourself favorably to others who are not doing quite as much as you are?

10. The disciples did not identify with the Pharisees who looked down on other people, yet who are the disciples treating with contempt according to verse 15?

-Remember in chapter 9 Jesus told his followers that whoever welcomes a child (representing the lowly and marginalized) for His sake, welcomes him. What are the disciples doing by turning away these small children?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

1 John 4:7-8 "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

-When are we, as Jesus' followers, most representing who God is to the world?

11. Who are the kind of people the kingdom of God belongs to according to Jesus in verse 15-16?

-What is a distinct characteristic of an infant?

12. How do little children receive love, sustenance, and protection from their parents?

-How is this a picture of the way we should receive the kingdom of God?

Picture and Ponder: "The danger here is that we interpret Jesus' words too romantically. He is not saying that children are so innocent and lovely that they are worthy of the kingdom of God (or, as some have understood this passage, that they should be baptized); quite the opposite. The quality that children possess in abundance is their unworthiness; like the tax collector in verses 9-14, they had no résumé of spiritual accomplishments to tempt them to the works-righteousness that marked the Pharisee. One of the surprises of the kingdom of God is that it is those kinds of people, and only those kinds of people, who enter into it."³

Day 4- Luke 18:18-30

13. What truth is Jesus prompting the rich man to see by the equation- only God is good, and I am good, so that means...?

14. If only God is good, what does this mean for the rich man' s own perceived goodness?

For Discussion: In spite of the rich man's claim that he had kept all the commandments from the time he was young why do you think he is still asking how to obtain eternal life?

Picture and Ponder: "Notice that a works-righteousness approach always leads to anxiety, for we will never know whether we have done enough to please God in an ultimate way!" ⁴

15. The commandments that Jesus mentioned to the rich man all had to do with loving your neighbor as yourself and the rich man thinks he has kept all those. By asking the rich man to sell everything he owned, how was he pointing out that the man didn't love God with all his heart, mind and strength (summary of the first four commandments)?



Jesus is not saying here that everyone who follows him has to sell all he owns and live a life of poverty. As R. Kent Hughes says, ... "poverty does not deliver one from the love of money." Jesus was pointing out that the rich ruler was not as good as he thought he was.

This rich man thought he was good because of what he had done and he wanted to make sure there wasn't something else he could do to gain eternal life. Jesus mercifully showed him his heart and revealed to him that he loved his possessions and security of wealth more than he loved God.

Following Jesus requires treasuring him more than anything. Jesus says in verse 27 that on our own it is impossible. Left to ourselves we love the things of this world more than anything. But with God it is possible.

- ❖ Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal anything you are treasuring more than him. Ask him to help you see more and more the beauty and worth of Jesus and cause your heart to love and treasure Him more than anything.

Scholar's Note: "Jesus' reference to a camel, the largest beast in Palestine, being thrust through a needle's eye, humps and all, was readily understood as a humorous illustration of the impossible. Jesus categorically says it is impossible for a man or woman who *trusts* in riches to get into Heaven." ⁵

16. What are the two parts of the remarkable promise Jesus makes in verses 29-30?



Sometimes unbelievers don't want to give their lives to Jesus because they know they will have to give up so much of what they love. They believe they will give up so much more than they will get.

The promise Jesus makes in verses 29 and 30 contradicts that notion. The balance sheet is not richer in Jesus' column, nor is it equally balanced. Jesus says the scales are tipped in our favor. He promises his followers will receive *many times more* than what we give up. And not just in the eternal future, but now in this life also.

Paul tells us in Romans 10:12, that Jesus "bestows his riches on all who call upon him." The riches of Jesus are unsearchable (Eph.3:8), his promise is true.

- ❖ How does this promise bring you encouragement in living for Jesus?

- ❖ Sometimes the problem with us is, maybe we don't see the riches Jesus gives as treasure, maybe we don't love and value the things Jesus' loves and values. Pray that you will love and value the things that Jesus loves and values.

Day 5- Luke 18:31-43

17. As Jesus and the disciples journey to Jerusalem, Jesus' death is looming closer. At this point Jesus had already raised Lazarus from the dead, which was the catalyst that set the religious rulers on their diabolical course. What did Jesus remind the disciples of in verse 31?

Scholar's Note: "Son of David is a messianic title (cf. Matt. 12: 23; 21: 9; 22: 42), which indicates more than merely declaring Jesus was a descendant of David. The title describes Him as the heir to the messianic throne and the one who has the right to fulfill the Davidic covenant (2 Sam. 7: 12- 14)." ⁶

18. By calling Jesus "Son of David" what was Bartimaeus (we know his name from Mark 10:46) really saying according to the information in the Scholar's Note?

19. How desperate for Jesus was Bartimaeus according to verse 39?

20. “The Greek word translated “well” is not *iaomai*, which means “to heal,” but *sōzō*, the familiar New Testament term translated “saved” in reference to salvation.”⁷ Upon receiving his sight *and* his salvation, what two things did Bartimaeus do according to verse 43?

Scholar’s Note: “Scholar’s say Mark’s Gospel preserves Bartimaeus’ name because he became a stalwart in the Jerusalem church.”⁸

One Thing: Look back over this week’s study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

¹ Hughes, R. Kent. *Luke, That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word series*, (Crossway, Wheaton Ill. 2015)p.626

² McKinley, Mike (2017-05-01). *Luke 12-24 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading (God’s Word For You Book 14)* (pp. 76-77). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Hughes, R. Kent. *Luke, That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word series*, (Crossway, Wheaton Ill. 2015)

⁶ MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). *Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series)* (Kindle Locations 24213-24214). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Hughes, R. Kent. *Luke, That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word series*, (Crossway, Wheaton Ill. 2015)

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