

LUKE, PT. 51 - YOU NEED JESUS - LUKE 18:18-43

- I. **INTRO:** Barber. Is my friend telling me that if I pray enough, God will solve these problems?
- A. Easy to take out of context. Interpret thru merit-based lenses. Who deserves blessing/reward?
1. Ex. Barber. Asked her if she had read the story that that verse is a part of.
 2. Our text - blows up our engrained expectations on how God interacts with people.
- II. **Luke 18:18-26**
- A. WHO CAN BE SAVED?!? What elicited this question? Same with us. Merit-based lenses.
1. Many believed **wealth** was sign of blessing from God. Plus, this guy was a **religious** ruler.
 2. If this guy is unable to get into the Kingdom, then who could get into the kingdom?
- B. **Luke 18:27** - The famous verse. This is something that God Himself will have to accomplish.
1. This verse isn't about individual prayer requests...this verse is about God doing the impossible...namely saving a sinful people, conquering death, and giving eternal life.
 - a) **Able to share Gospel w/ barber**. Not about those who pray hard enough, live holy enough, or are religious enough. But those who admit that they need God's help.
- C. And this was something that Jesus was trying to teach His disciples in this encounter.
1. Can't earn favor w/ God thru how you live. Piety/Wealth ≠ walking in God's blessing!
 2. Compare yourself to? What qualities do you assume make them more pleasing to God?
 3. Peter wanted to make sure that he was on the right track...**Luke 18:28-30**.
- III. **Jesus takes disciples aside to explain to them how God is going to do the impossible.**
- A. **Luke 18:31-34**.
1. **Isaiah 53:4-6** - *"Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."*
- B. **GOSPEL ACCORDING TO WHOLE BIBLE**. God is going to do what is impossible for us to do!
1. Jesus lives righteous life and offers self as perfect sacrifice. Takes sin, gives righteousness.
 2. If you confess your need of Him and believe in what He did, you will be saved!
 3. Not about merit or religion. It's about if you have the humility to repent, confess your sin, and trust that Jesus accomplished everything that needed to be accomplished.
- C. But the disciples did not quite understand this yet because they, just like the ruler....
- IV. **EXAMPLE - Compare this story to the story about the ruler. Luke 18:35-43.**
- A. Why is it difficult for the wealthy ruler to enter the Kingdom but easy for the blind-beggar?
1. Blind beggar's circumstances = in touch with his need/helplessness. Wealthy ruler not.
 2. Jesus is not saying it's impossible for the wealthy to be saved...it's just going to be a lot more difficult for them to cry out...**JESUS, SON OF GOD, HAVE MERCY ON ME!**
 - a) Same thing with religion! Pharisee and Tax Collector from last week. Does our religion give us reason not to cry out to God for mercy and help?
- B. Blind Beggar was in a "NOTHING ELSE MATTERS" stage of life. This is a point you reach in your life where you realize that NOTHING ELSE MATTERS than the grace/mercy of God.
1. **Kim and I at marriage conference in Dallas**. Reached a NOTHING ELSE MATTERS point.
 2. And that begins to re-prioritize the things in your life.
 - a) Money = a means of worship to God. Religion = a means of worship to God.

V. My question for you: Have you had the “NOTHING ELSE MATTERS” moment w/ Jesus?

A. The “JESUS, SON OF GOD, HAVE MERCY ON ME!!” moment with Jesus?

1. Because that is how one is saved. That is how one inherits eternal life.

2. Admitting there is nothing you can do and trusting that Jesus has done the impossible.

VI. Everyone close eyes and reflect: