

Discussion Questions

Luke 18:18-30 | The Good Life

1. The ruler asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Bobby suggested this question isn't really "how do I get to heaven when I die" but "how do I get access to the life of the age to come, the life God always intended." How does that reframing change how you hear the rest of the passage?
2. Jesus responds, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone." Why do you think Jesus pushes back on this before answering the man's question?
3. Jesus lists five commandments, all of them about how we treat other people: adultery, murder, theft, false testimony, honoring parents. He leaves out the first commandments about idolatry. Why might that omission matter?
4. The man says he's kept all these commands since he was young. Jesus doesn't challenge that claim or push him toward a deeper definition of murder or adultery the way he does elsewhere (like in the Sermon on the Mount). What does Jesus go after instead?
5. Jesus tells him to sell everything, give to the poor, and follow him. Verse 23 says the man went away sad because he was very wealthy. What does his sadness reveal about what he was actually trusting in for his security and identity?
6. Where do you find yourself looking for security, comfort, or approval in places other than God? What would it look like for that to surface if Jesus asked you a similarly specific question?
7. Jesus tells the man to sell his possessions and give to the poor, not to burn them or bury them. What's the difference between surrendering something to God and merely discarding it?
8. The disciples respond, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus says it's impossible for people, but possible for God. What is the significance for us of that answer?
9. Bobby pointed out there are two rich young rulers in this passage: the man who comes to Jesus, and Jesus himself, who had every right to rule all creation and gave it up. How does seeing Jesus as the one who actually does what he asks of the ruler change how you read his invitation?
10. Jesus looks at the man and loves him (Mark's account) even as he calls him to something costly. How do you hold those two things together: being loved as you are, and being called to surrender everything?
11. What is one possession, comfort, or source of security in your own life that you sense Jesus inviting you to surrender, not to lose it, but to put it to use for others?
12. Who in your life right now needs a "hand up," not a handout: someone whose potential, dignity, or burden you could help carry this week?