

## Luke 18:18-34

A certain ruler asked Jesus, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honor your father and mother.'" He replied, "I have kept all these since my youth." When Jesus heard this, He said to him, "There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow Me."

## Luke 18:18-34

But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich. Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who have wealth 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 it said, "Then who can be saved?" He replied, "What is impossible for mortals is possible for God."

## Luke 18:18-30

Then Peter said, “Look, we have left our homes and followed You.” And He said to them, “Truly I tell 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 get back very much more in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.”

## Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it.

A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see Him, because He was going to pass that way.

When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome Him.

## Luke 19:1-10

All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

## **Rich Ruler**

Met Jesus

Invited to follow

Leaves sad

## **Rich Tax Collector**

Met Jesus

Invited to follow

Leaves saved

What do you want in life?  
Sadness or Salvation

## The American Dream or The American Demise?

- Financial comfort
- Job w/meaning and clout
- Epic children
- Good health
- Regular fun experiences
- Soul mate
- Sexual fulfillment
- Instafame
- Self-autonomy & expression

What do you want in life?  
Sadness or Salvation

# Sadness or Salvation?

## 1. Self-Indulgence or Self-Denial?

1. Inadequacy Marketing
2. Planned Obsolescence
3. Perceived Obsolescence
4. Consumer Credit
5. Targeted Ads & Big Data

**Luke 18:22-23** - Jesus said, "Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich.

**Luke 19:9** - Zacchaeus said, "Look, half of my possessions, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Jesus said, "Today salvation has come to this house..."

“Sell everything. Give it to the poor. Come follow Me.”

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1. What makes you think He's not asking this?

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2. What makes you think you would give it all then if you don't give a lot now?

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1. What makes you think He's not asking this?
2. What makes you think you would give it all then if you don't give a lot now?
3. Could this be why you are so sad, disillusioned, and discontent?

## Luke 9:23-25

Then He said to them all, “If any want to become My followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for My sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves?”

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## Sadness or Salvation?

1. Self-Indulgence or Self-Denial?
2. Now or Forever?

## Luke 18:22,28-29

When Jesus heard this, He said to the Ruler, “There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and **you will have treasure in heaven;** then come, follow Me”....Then Peter said, “Look, we have left our homes and followed You.” And He said to them, “**Truly I tell 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 get back very much more in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.**”

# The American Dream

Live in light of your imminent death.

# Jesus

Live in light of your eternal life.

“Earth’s crammed with heaven,  
And every common bush a fire with God;  
And only he who sees, takes off his shoes;  
The rest sit around it and pluck blackberries,  
And daub their natural faces unaware.”

— Elizabeth Barrett Browning

## Colossians 3:1-4

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all His glory.

## Sadness or Salvation?

1. Self-Indulgence or Self-Denial?
2. Now or Forever?
3. “I’m good.” or “I’m not good!”

## Luke 18:24-27

Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for those who have wealth 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 it said, “Then who can be saved?” He replied, “What is impossible for mortals is possible for God.”

## 2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich.

## This is the way of Salvation.

1. We deny ourselves for the sake of others.
2. We have a vision beyond the horizon of now.
3. We are no good without Jesus.

“Do you believe that there is enough glory in God to make you happy forever? If you don’t, why? What failing have you found in God? The gospel promises that His glory will remake the whole world, progressively and then completely. Stop valuing the idols you not only might lose but inevitably must lose. Learn to enjoy God. The triumph of His glory is enough to make your complete happiness forever invincible.” – **Ray Ortlund**