



The Rich (Young) Ruler Luke 18:18-30

The man in this story is often called “the rich, young ruler.” To get that title, we have to combine information from the three synoptic Gospels. Matthew tells us that he was young. Luke, that he was a ruler. All three point out that he was rich.

Something to Start Us Off

- Name someone that, in our day, might illustrate what it means to *have it all*.

Something to Notice

- What was the ruler’s initial question in v.18?
- And what very personal instruction does Jesus give him in v.22?
- How will they be rewarded, who have left everything to follow Jesus? (vv29-30)

Something to Understand

Contrary to popular belief, there is no evidence that Jesus was referring to a small gate in Jerusalem by saying “the eye of a needle.” On the other hand, the phrase is used, always in the context of something undoable, in both the Jewish Talmud and the Muslim Qur’an. Jesus simply used a common metaphor.

- What do you think Jesus means when he responds the way he does in v.19 – about only God being good?
- Why do you suppose that Jesus, in response to the man’s question, tells him to keep the commandments?
- So what hope, in the end, is there for rich people? See v.27 for at least a hint of hope.

Something to Take Home

- Based on our study of this section of Luke 18, how would you describe the right attitude to take toward our possessions?
- Is there anything else this look at Luke 18:18-30 that you especially want to remember for future reference? Can you explain why?