

LESSON 6

THE DECISIONS OF TWO RICH MEN

Scripture Texts: *Luke 18:18-30; 19:1-10*

In this lesson, once again we turn to Luke's Gospel and learn of the case histories of two men. We study their needs when they came to Christ and the response they gave when Christ let His demands be known. As we study the rich young ruler and Zaccheus, several things come to our attention.

MEMORY VERSE: *"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."*

Matthew 7:13-14

Wealth Is No Safeguard Against Spiritual Poverty

This fact is brought to light when we realize that there are needs in the human heart that money cannot satisfy. This young ruler who came to Christ had kept all the commandments and was very rich, but he still recognized an inner need, a void in his life. He knew he was missing something in life. It was more than curiosity that caused Zaccheus to climb the tree to see Christ. He felt a need within his soul for the life shown by Christ. These men realized that they did not have in their lives the thing that money cannot buy—eternal life.



How We Obtain and Use Our Money Is Important

No person has a right to collect from society without giving something in return. When labor collects from industry without giving production, industry is not receiving from labor its moral obligation. When industry profits from labor without equal compensation, it lacks in justice and fairness. Money obtained falsely, whether by word of mouth, or act of hand, is dishonest gain, and the person who collects it must give an account to God. Zaccheus, sensing this truth, pledged himself to restore fourfold.

Money, although rightly earned, must be used as a sacred trust from God. Money rightly earned but wrongly spent brings a curse to our lives and others about us. The young ruler not only robbed himself of a blessing by not heeding Christ, he also robbed those who would have been blessed by his generosity. The use men make of money is an index of their characters. We must put first things first.

Money Is of Great Value in the Work of the Kingdom

The matter of feeding the poor and preaching the Gospel lies close to the heart of God. He has ordained that His disciples give liberally of their time, talents, and money for the spreading of His work. The only way for the poor of the world to be fed is for those who have bread enough and to spare to share with those who have not. The only way the heathen will hear the Gospel is for those who have it to take it to them. Money is needed to accomplish both of these goals.

There is nothing to lose by investing your life in the Kingdom of God, but everything to gain. "And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life" (Matthew 19:29).

Will you be like Zaccheus or the rich young ruler?

Just a Thought

**"Beware of the Christian with an open mouth
and a closed pocketbook."**

