

May 2, 2021
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
The GOSPEL // Episode 3 : Why-What-How
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

Luke 18:18-25

¹⁸ A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, **what** must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁹ "**Why** do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'" ²¹ "All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said. ²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²³ When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy. ²⁴ Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ 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."

Few things get to the heart of a matter like knowing the **what** and the **whys** of life.

RICH-YOUNG-RULER

- **Vs. 18** *A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, **what** must I do to **inherit eternal life**?"*
 - **WHAT-** A gaping eternal chasm separates the proposition of inheriting **eternal life from acquiring a good life.**
 - A spiritual to-do list is far cry from a relationship of Lordship with Jesus.
- **Vs. 19** *"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone."*
 - **WHY-** This is not a denial of deity. Instead, Jesus invites the young man to reflect upon it. It is as if Jesus says, "do you really know what you are saying when you call Me Good Teacher?"
 - **Romans 3:10-12** *as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."*
 - *This was a man who was trying to manage his way to righteousness through partial self denial.*
 - Vs. 21 *"All these (Commandments) I have kept since I was a boy," he said.*

Jesus surgery- Vs. 22 *When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."*

- Sin is magnetic to the scalpel of Jesus.

- **Vs. 24-25 Jesus looked at him and said,** *“How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ 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.”*
- **Matthew 19:22** *When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.*
 - How often do we accept our sadness because we are not willing to pay the cost for joy?

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS:

- What is the difference between living for a good life vs. eternal life?
- Pastor Adam mentioned that we often treat God like a vending machine rather than a Lord? Do you sometimes do that?
- Jesus told the man that he still lacked one thing. How do we live without the “one thing” problem?
- Pastor Adam stated that we often add to our own sadness, but choosing things we know harm us. Why do we do this?
- Is it even possible to live fully for God with no “thing” in between?