

18:23 The man became extremely sad **FOR** he was **very rich**.

- He was sad at the prospect of changing from being a 'somebody' to a 'nobody'!!
- He was sad at the prospect of losing wealth, **power**, influence

(NB) **Power** and Possessions keep him closed to the call of God. He is bound to the earth and
∴ under the influence of the "Prince of this world".

THE DANGER OF RICHES: 18:24-27

Jesus points out that wealth is **a huge obstacle** to coming into the Kingdom: you rely on yourself
- not on God.

- The K.O.G. **was in formation** during Jesus' lifetime
→ the sinners – the poor - the little ones were joining Jesus
... but the Rich and Powerful stayed away: Cf. Magificat
- Problem for { the Rich Pharisees: || **Deut 28:1-8** lists all the blessings of the Covenant
the Disciples for the faithful

So, they considered wealth and possessions to be **a GIFT from God**.

- (NB) • Jesus seemed to be contradicting the Scriptures...
Deut 28 says that God will bless us, our homes, properties **if we remain faithful to him**.

But, they presumed that all the blessings were **terrestrial!**

- Jesus offers spiritual blessings and benefits.

Hence the question: **"who can be saved?"**

Remember Lk 13:23-24 **"Lord, will only a few be saved?"**

Salvation seems even harder as Jesus explains the KOG.

18:27 ***"Things that are impossible for men ARE possible with God"***

Cf. Lk 1:37 Angel Gabriel to Mary: ***"Nothing is impossible with God"***
Gen 18:14 ***"Is anything too hard for the Lord?"***

Luke has made it very clear that **salvation** comes from **God's Power** and is received by faith:
Lk 7:50; 8:12, 48, 50; 9:24, 56; 17:19

PETER'S RESPONSE: 18:28-30

What about us? **We have done** what you said to the Rich Man!

- **What happens now?** Jesus replied that any sacrifice made **for the sake of the kingdom** will be rewarded **many times over**:
 - a) in this world
 - b) in the world to come – eternal life.

(ie) The benefits of being **in** the K.O.G. far outweigh those of the world.
Why? - they are given by God / are eternal.

THE DISCIPLES DO NOT UNDERSTAND (18:31-34) the Plan of Jesus for his Kingdom

- They are near the end of the journey to Jerusalem so Jesus reminds His disciples of **the FACT** that the Scriptures regarding the Messiah will be fulfilled there: Ps 22 / Is 52-53
 - which he will emphasise in the Resurrection accounts Lk 24:27,44
- **What is to come for Jesus** is made **very** clear:
 - (i) He will be handed over to the pagans (Roman authorities)
 - but does not mention **by whom** he will be handed over (= betrayed)
 - (ii) He will be mocked (Cf. Herod: Lk 23:11), soldiers (23:36), maltreated and spat upon – see **Isaiah 50:6**
 - (iii) He will be scourged and executed.

18:34 The disciples had **no idea** what He meant!!
The necessity of the Messiah to suffer is explained in 24:25-26

THE BLIND MAN OF JERICHO: 18:35-43 This is the story of one man who:

Leap of Faith! {

- dared to believe that the impossible could happen
- dared to believe that Jesus **was** the Messiah
- dared to believe that his cry for mercy **would BE HEARD**

- (NB) He illustrates the persevering prayer of the Widow: 18:1-8 and the cry for mercy from the tax-collector: 18:9-14
- 1) (NB) Both of these were parables – but this was those teachings **in action**
 - someone **listening to and putting the Word of God INTO ACTION.**
- 2) (NB) The Blind man is one of **the poor** - an outcast from society which recognises the rich.
- 3) This man is the **exact opposite** of the **Rich Man** with his power and possessions (18:18-23).
He can enter the K.O.G. because there is nothing to hold him back!!
- 4) He was a beggar – which was (and still is) considered **a shame** by society, Cf. the **Dishonest Steward of 17:3** said he would be too ashamed to beg.

18:36 Because he was also blind, he needed an explanation regarding the excitement of the crowd.

18:37 When he heard that it was Jesus **OF NAZARETH** – as distinct from any other man bearing the name of Joshua or Yeshua...

HE CRIED OUT to Jesus as **SON OF DAVID** - (ie) Messiah
: He responded **quickly!**

CHAPTER 19 of Luke

Zaccheus: 19:1-10 A Rich Man enters the K.O.G. – this verifies Jesus' teaching in **18:27**

"Things that are impossible for men ARE POSSIBLE FOR GOD"

Zaccheus was a **chief** tax collector (ie) higher in rank than others.
∴ was a wealthy man – like the **Rich Man** of **18:18**

But he was **very** different to that other man in relation to Jesus
- he was **ANXIOUS** to see Jesus

(ie) He sought out the Saviour... and the Saviour sought him out of the whole crowd.

19:10 (NB) Jesus came (in the Incarnation) **to "seek out and save" the lost.**

19:4 In his desire to see Jesus Zacchaeus – in spite of his social importance acted in a very child-like way – climbing a tree to get a good view!

- (ie) The child-like spirit was still alive in him
- He had not become **hard-hearted**... or too proud...
- His wealth had not destroyed him.

19:5 Jesus called him **by name** and gave him the opportunity **to do good** by welcoming the Lord into his house... an invitation to grace / New Life

19:6 Zacchaeus **hurried** down from the tree and welcomed the Lord joyfully.
- Zacchaeus was despised by everyone, **but accepted by the Lord**
- Zacchaeus was recognised as a sinner by everyone, **but forgiven by the Redeemer.**
• Luke associates **joy with repentance**: Cf. 15:5, 7 10 and 32

19:7 **The people grumbled** – everyone thought Jesus was wrong, disciples, friends and foes!!

Cf. Isaiah 55:6-9: ***"Seek the Lord while he is still to be found! call to him while he is near...
Let the wicked man abandon his ways, the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts
- my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks
- Yes, the heavens are high above the earth as my ways above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.***

(NB) Everyone in the crowd thought **they** were **fit company** for Jesus
- **they** do not see **him** as a Shepherd seeking out lost sheep.

19:8 **Zaccheus' confession to Jesus :** He was a public sinner } Prodigal Son was home
He made a public confession

(NB) He has changed

- from grasping to giving.
- from injustice to justice
- from selfishness to consideration regarding others

- He has **reversed the 'woes'** of the **Beatitudes regarding himself**.

(NB) He makes 4-fold restitution as was demanded by the Law.

19:9 Jesus pronounced ***"Today salvation has come to this house"*** Jesus = salvation.
The sheep is found, Shepherd rejoices
"If I have cheated anyone"!!: Cf. Lk 3:13. The tax collectors **were** cheats!

19:9 ***"A Son of Abraham"***: Zacchaeus was one of the Chosen People under the covenants of Abraham and Moses.

- He showed the ***"fruits of repentance"*** demanded by John the Baptist in Lk 3:8
- Jesus informs **the angry crowd** that Zacchaeus was ***"one of them"***
– a ***"lost sheep of the House of Israel"***: (Matt 15:24)

THE KINGSHIP PARABLE: 19:11-27

(NB) The context of this parable is that Jesus is getting close to Jerusalem, where
"everything that was written by the prophets about the Son of Man is to happen": Lk 18:31

Jesus is surrounded by **incomprehension** and **misunderstanding**: 19:21-27

- (NB) • Neither Disciples nor crowds understood this prophecy of Jesus.
- They imagined that the **earthly kingdom of David** was going to be restored very soon.
 - They did not grasp that **Jesus' Kingship was Spiritual** and would begin **AFTER** the Resurrection (18:38-39)
 - Like the Pharisees they had a wrong idea of Kingship (17:20-21)

The **reason** for telling the parable is given at the beginning to make sure that we interpret it correctly.

19:12 The parable concerns a nobleman, his servants (slaves) and citizens
- He went to a far country to receive his Kingdom and then returned.

Historically, Herod, the Great travelled to Rome to receive his kingship.

Cf. Josephus in Antiquities: 14:370-389.

(Archelaus, son of Herod the Great did likewise but the people sent a delegation saying they did not want him as king)

- when he returned home successfully **he brutally destroyed his enemies**.

Meaning of Parable: Jesus was about to leave them in Death/Resurrection to go back to the Father.

- He left the Church in the care of His **servants**: Apostles and successors: 10 = the full number
- Some would work well for Him... others will be lazy / **do** nothing.
- When Jesus returns in the **Parousia** – His Final, Glorious Coming, He will meet out justice to everyone (ie) rewards or punishments