

Wednesday Bible Study
November 12, 2025
What can we do: *Giving It All Up*

Introduction:

We cling to what we have, fearing that if we give too generously it will make us vulnerable and reliant on others. We are anxious that the treasure promised in Jesus Christ is not treasure enough. Because God guarantees us the treasures of heaven, we can live in the present without the anxiety that we lack what we ultimately need.

Luke 18:18-27 – NRSVUE - The Rich Ruler

¹⁸ A certain ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁹ Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ²⁰ 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.' " ²¹ He replied, "I have kept all these since my youth." ²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money^[a] to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²³ But when he heard this, he became sad, for he was very rich. ²⁴ Jesus looked at him^[b] and said, "How hard it is for those who have wealth 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." ²⁶ Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷ He replied, "What is impossible for mortals is possible for God."

Luke 18:18-27 - The Message - The Rich Official

¹⁸ One day one of the local officials asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to deserve eternal life?" ¹⁹⁻²⁰ Jesus said, "Why are you calling me good? No one is good—only God. You know the commandments, don't you? No illicit sex, no killing, no stealing, no lying, honor your father and mother." ²¹ He said, "I've kept them all for as long as I can remember." ²² When Jesus heard that, he said, "Then there's only one thing left to do: Sell everything you own and give it away to the poor. You will have riches in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²³ This was the last thing the official expected to hear. He was very rich and became terribly sad. He was holding on tight to a lot of things and not about to let them go.

24-25 Seeing his reaction, Jesus said, "Do you have any idea how difficult it is for people who have it all to enter God's kingdom? I'd say it's easier to thread a camel through a needle's eye than get a rich person into God's kingdom."

26 "Then who has any chance at all?" the others asked.

27 "No chance at all," Jesus said, "if you think you can pull it off by yourself. Every chance in the world if you trust God to do it."

Luke 18:18-27 – First Nations Version - Possessions or the Great Spirit?

18A spiritual leader came to Creator Sets Free (Jesus). "Good Wisdomkeeper," he asked, "what must I do to have the life of the world to come that never fades away, full of beauty and harmony?"

19" Why do you call me good?" he asked the man. "Only the Great Spirit is good.

20You know the sacred instructions from tribal law: Do not be unfaithful in marriage, do not take the life of another, or take anything that is not yours. Do not lie about others, and always give honor and respect to your parents."

21" Wisdomkeeper," the man answered, "from my youth I have followed all of these instructions."

22" Then only one thing remains," Creator Sets Free (Jesus) told him, "Take all of your possessions and give them to the ones who have none. Then you will have great possessions in the spirit-world above. And then come, walk the good road with me."

23The young man's heart fell to the ground, and he hung his head, for he had many possessions.

24-25A great sadness came to the face of Creator Sets Free (Jesus) as he looked at the man. And then he said, "Walking the good road is a hard thing for the ones who have many possessions. It would be easier for a moose⁴³ to squeeze through the eye of a beading needle."

26After hearing this, they asked him, "How then can anyone walk the good road that sets all people free?"

27Creator Sets Free (Jesus) looked at them and said, "This is only possible with the help of the Great Spirit.""