

I. Read Luke 18:24-30

- A. This lesson must be understood as a follow-up to the study of Luke 18:18-23. In verse 24 we read that Jesus “saw that he (the ruler) became very sorrowful” (NKJV). What insight can we gain about the personality of Christ from verse 24?

There is a saying intended for teachers that is expressed thusly — “They won’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” How might this saying be applied to our evangelistic efforts?

- B. Jesus continues His response to the *rich young ruler* in verse 25 by making a hyperbolic (obvious exaggeration) comparison between a camel passing through the eye of a needle and a rich man being saved. Some commentators have posited that this was actually a reference to a particular city gate in the wall surrounding Jerusalem. This interpretation is difficult to support. More likely Jesus was teaching a simple truth. What is it? (Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10.)
- C. The comparison Jesus made in verse 25 caused those listening concern. They asked Him, “Who then can be saved?” They were misunderstanding Jesus’ teaching to be an *absolute* truth rather than a *principle* to be applied to each individual. Use the *rich young ruler* to demonstrate the *principle* Jesus was teaching.
- D. How did Jesus respond to the listener’s question recorded in verse 26? (See verse 27.)

What did he mean?

- E. In verse 28, Peter, speaking in character, compares the sacrifice of the disciples to the unwillingness of others to do likewise. On the one hand, sacrifice for God is commendable and praiseworthy. On the other hand, such a comparison is foolish. Why? (See Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:18-19, 23; John 15:16.)
- F. Jesus responds to Peter's statement by assuring him (and all subsequent believers) that no sacrifice made in life for the sake of the Kingdom of God will go unrewarded (vv29-30). While the particular nature of those heavenly rewards is an oft-debated topic, the point Jesus makes is an assuring one, particularly for someone like Peter. Why?
- G. There is a less obvious point that only those who have given themselves to an endeavor and cause bigger than themselves truly understand. What is it?