

Steve Greenberg's Handout

Week 38 May 3, 2026: Luke 18:18-43: Rich Ruler, Blind Man Healed

Review:

Luke 18:18-23 Jesus Counsels the Rich Young Ruler (Mat 19:16–22; Mark 10:17–22)

Luk 18:18 Now a certain ruler (**rich young ruler**) asked Him(**Jesus**), saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life (**eternal salvation**)?"

This man is known as the **rich young ruler**, because he is described as a **ruler** (Luke 18:18), as **rich** (Luke 18:23), and as **young** (Mat 19:22).

Possible a ruler of a synagogue. Example in Luk 8:41 And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a **ruler of the synagogue**. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house,

Luk 18:19 So Jesus said to him (**rich young ruler**), "**Why do you call Me good? No one is good (morally good) but One, that is, God (God alone)**."

Mat 19:17 So He(**Jesus**) said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

Only by understanding that God is truly good (perfect, holy loving) can a person fully understand their need for holiness and a savior, redeemer and that they cannot earn by good works eternal life

Luk 18:20 "**You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness (testify falsely),' 'Honor your father and your mother.'**" (Exo 20:12–16; Deu 5:16–20)

Mat 19:18 He(**ruler**) said to Him (**Jesus**), "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,'

Mat 19:19 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "

Jesus quotes the last six commandments 5 through 10.

The Ten Commandments

1. No other gods

You shall have no other gods before Me. God alone is to be worshiped and trusted—not anything else (money, power, people, or self).

2. No idols

You shall not make or worship idols. Do not create or worship images or substitutes for God. This also includes anything we elevate to take God's place in our hearts.

3. Honor God's name
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord. Treat God's name with reverence—this includes speech, but also representing Him rightly in how we live
4. Keep the Sabbath holy
Set apart a day of rest and worship. Set apart time for rest and worship. It's about trusting God, not just constant work or productivity.
5. Honor your parents
Respect and obey your father and mother. This extends to valuing authority and relationships God has placed in our lives.
6. Do not murder
Value and protect human life. Human life is sacred. Jesus later shows this includes attitudes like hatred and anger, not just actions.
7. Do not commit adultery
Be faithful in marriage. Be faithful in marriage. Jesus expands this to purity of heart, not just outward behavior.
8. Do not steal
Respect what belongs to others. Respect others' property, time, and rights. It also calls for honesty and integrity in all dealings.
9. Do not lie or bear false witness
Do not lie or give false testimony. Speak truthfully. This includes avoiding lies, slander, gossip, and anything that harms others through dishonesty.
10. Do not covet
Love your neighbor, do not desire what belongs to others. Guard your heart against envy and discontent. This command addresses inner desires, not just outward actions.

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ affirms the enduring relevance of the Ten Commandments and He summarizes them in the two greatest commandments: love for God and love for neighbor (Mat 22:37-40). The Apostle Paul emphasizing that love fulfills the law (Rom 13:8-10).

Luk 18:21 And he(ruler) said, "All these things I have kept (obeyed) from my youth (13 years old)."

Mat 19:20 The young man said to Him(Jesus), "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?"

From a human perspective it seems right but from Gods perspective and truth it is wrong. Pro 14:12 says, there is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. Mat 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

He actually keep them in a way that made him righteous in his own eyes and the eyes of men, like in the sense that Paul could say concerning the righteousness which is in the law, I was blameless in Phil 3:6 until he understood it was not outward righteousness but from the heart, which makes everyone a failure.

Rom 3:21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

Rom 3:22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Rom 3:24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Rom 3:25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

Rom 3:26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Luk 18:22 So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him(ruler), "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven (refers to the rewards believers will receive in heaven); and come, follow Me." (Luk 9:23 come follow Me).

Deu 6:5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Luk 9:23 Then He(Jesus) said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself (surrender to the Lord's will), and take up his cross daily (walk as He walked), and follow Me.

Luk 18:23 But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich (riches was his god and he desired them, more than the true living God.).

Parallel passage in Mark

Mar 10:21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him (Jesus response to the rich man was He loved him), and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving and sad; for he was one who owned much property and possessions, which he treasured more than his relationship with God. This man was sorrowful because he was very rich. Is there anything in your life that is getting in the way of your relationship with God that would be your idol?

Here is a good example of gaining wealth, power and being young and ending up with death, nothing and separation. Jesus asked the ruler to give up his money because He

could see money was his idol. Jesus asked him to give it to the poor because He could see that he didn't love others the way he should.

Mat 16:26 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Luke 18:24-30 Impossible for Man But All Things Are Possible for God (Mat 19:23-30; Mark 10:23-31)

Luk 18:24 And when Jesus saw, that he(**the rich man had**) became very sorrowful (**a few manuscripts do not have the rich man became sad**), He(**Jesus**) said, "**How hard (difficult, impossible) it is for those who have riches, (can be an obstacle), to enter the kingdom of God!** (**The common opinion of that day, is that money and wealth means God is has blessed that person**).

Quote from Pastor Chuck Smith

Notice in v22, Jesus said, **One thing you lack. What did he lack? Poverty? No. He lacked having God at the center of his being.** What was at the center of his being? His riches. Whatever it is in a person's life that is keeping him from following Jesus Christ, that is the thing that the Lord will lay His finger on.

Whatever it is in your life that is keeping you from following Jesus, that's the thing that Jesus is going on put the finger on. He said, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself" (Mat 16:24). He doesn't say what, because it differs with different people. Deny yourself whatever it is that's standing between you and God. Whatever it is that's keeping you from following Jesus Christ, that's the thing that the Lord is calling on you to give up.

Luk 18:25 "**For (or in fact), it is easier for a camel to go (or enter) through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man (who has placed his faith in wealth), to enter the kingdom of God.**

1Tim 6:9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

1Tim 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

God's grace is enough to save the rich man; we have the examples of people like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Solomon, Zacchaeus, Joseph of Arimathea, and Barnabas. These are all rich men who put God first, not their riches.

Mat 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Quote from Pastor Chuck Smith

There are those people who are inveterate (**habitually and stubbornly**) self-righteous people who want to by their own works have a righteous standing before God. So they will tell you that the eye of the needle refers to a little gate within the major gate of the city. A

little gate in which if you got down and you get a guy in front of you, pulling the camel and you are pushing the camel, if you push hard enough and squeeze him hard enough, you could get the camel through this little gate, the sub-gate that they was called the eye of the needle. In other words, work hard enough at it. You can make it.

Luk 18:26 And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" (My comment: no one is good enough to be saved by their own efforts, whether through good deeds, works, or wealth. Salvation is not something we can achieve on our own? It depends entirely on what God has done. Rom 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus (Jesus is Lord-God), and believe in your heart that God has raised Him(Jesus) from the dead, you will be saved.)

In the parallel gospel accounts: it says the disciples were the ones listening and reacting with astonishment.

Mat 19:25 & Mark 10:26 When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"

Their question, "Who then can be saved? Shows they (the disciples) understood Jesus' statement as very serious—if even the wealthy (offer alms and sacrifices, often seen as blessed by God) have difficulty, then salvation must be impossible by human standards.

Luk 18:27 But He(Jesus) said (replied), "The things which are impossible with men (mere humans) are possible with God."

Only by God's power and grace, repenting and following Jesus is possible even for a rich man.

Luk 18:28 Then Peter said, "See, we have left all (everything: homes, businesses, families, friends and jobs) and followed You."

The apostles had the honor of helping to provide the foundation for the church (Ephesians 2:20), and have a special honor and tribute in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:14)

Luk 18:29 So He(Jesus) said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you (I assure you, with this truth), there is no one, who has left house or parents or brothers (sisters) or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God,

Jesus is not encouraging his disciples to leave or abandon their families (Eph 5:25; 6:4).

Luk 18:30 "who shall not receive many times more, in this present time (in this life), and in the age to come, eternal life."

Parallel passage in Mark

Mar 10:29 So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's,

Mar 10:30 "who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time--houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions--and in the age to come, eternal life.

Believers will be repaid many times over in this life. Jesus is not promising that if you lose a house, you will get a bigger house here now, or if you suffer, you will become wealthy. So this isn't a prosperity formula.

Many times more in this life means new deeper blessings in God's family. So the repayment isn't always visible or material, it's often spiritual, relational, and eternal in significance, some examples:

A new spiritual family (**fellow believers who become your new family**)

A sense of belonging, purpose (**vision**) and shared life with God's people, body of Christ
Spiritual riches: Gods love, peace, rest which surpasses our understanding, joy of the Lord which is our strength, and the God's sustaining presence even in hardships and sufferings (**knowing future glory outweighs present suffering Rom 8:18**).

Growth in character, maturity and contentment (**1Tim 6:6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain**).

Eternal rewards (beyond salvation itself) scriptures speak of laying up treasures in heaven. Salvation itself is a free gift—no one earns it. But rewards are connected to how we live after we belong to God. A person works will be "tested by fire" some works endure (as rewards), others are burned up (**loss of reward, not loss of salvation**). Scripture consistently points to Gods sufficiency in our actions: examples sacrifices for Christ, generosity and giving, serving others, and faithfulness. The Bible uses different pictures to describe rewards: crowns (**symbolic of honor, 2Tim 4:8**), Inheritance — sharing fully in all that God has potentially prepared related to what has endured though testing.

Commendation from God: His personal approval (**honor that reflects ones relationship with God**); Greater responsibility in the kingdom — faithfulness now connects to future roles and responsibility in His kingdom (**Luke 12:42-44, 16:10, 19:16-19 and Mat 25:21**). Even the smallest act done for Christ, will be remembered and rewarded (**Mat 10:42, 1Cor 15:58**).

<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Brief Description</u>	<u>Reward</u>	<u>Application Today</u>
James 1:12	Being faithful through trials	Crown of Life	Stay faithful in hardship; trust God instead of giving up
Rev 2:10	Faithfulness even unto death	Crown of Life	Stand firm in faith even under pressure or fear
2Tim 4:8	Loving Christ's return	Righteous Crown	Live with eternity in view; prioritize Christ over world
1Pet 5:2-4	Serving others faithfully	Crown of Glory	Care for and serve others with humility and sincerity
1Cor 3:12-14	Building with lasting works	Rewards	Check your motives; do things for God, not recognition
Mat 25:21	Faithful stewardship	Responsibilities	Be faithful will be given greater responsibilities
Luk 19:16-19	Faithfulness in little	Authority	Treat small tasks as significant before God
Mat 6:19-21	Storing heavenly treasure	Treasures	Invest time, money, and energy in eternal things
Mat 10:42	Small acts of kindness	Reward	Do simple acts of kindness, even if unnoticed
Col 3:23-24	Serving sincerely	Inheritance	Work wholeheartedly as if serving Christ, not people
Rom 8:17-18	Suffering with Christ	Future glory	Endure suffering with hope, knowing it has eternal value

Luke 18:31-34 Jesus a Third Time Predicts His Death and Resurrection (Mat 20:17-19; Mark 10:32-34)

Luk 18:31 Then He(Jesus) took the twelve (apostles) aside and said to them "Behold (listen carefully), we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the (Old Testament) prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished (completed, the cross is to be seen as the fulfillment of prophecy.).

Twelve:

Luk 6:13 And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He(Jesus) also named apostles:

Luk 6:14 Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew;

Luk 6:15 Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot;

Luk 6:16 Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor.

Messianic Reference: written by Isaiah an Old Testament prophet

Isa 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Isa 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

Isa 53:8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions (sins) of My people He was stricken.

Isa 53:9 And they made His grave with the wicked--But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.

Isa 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

Isa 53:11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

Isa 53:12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

Dan 9:26 (written by Daniel an Old Testament prophet)" And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince (world leader**) who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.**

Luk 18:32 "For He will be (betrayed and), delivered to the Gentiles (Roman authorities) and will be mocked and insulted (shamefully mistreated, abused) and spit upon.

Jesus was handed over to bear God's wrath, die for the sins of his people

Luk 18:33 "They will scourge (flog & whip) Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again (from the dead)."

Act 2:23 "Him (Jesus), being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

Act 2:24 "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

Luk 18:34 But they (the twelve) understood none of these things (the approaching death and resurrection of Jesus); this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know (or grasp the meaning of) the things which were spoken (by Jesus).

They could not understand why Jesus was predicting His death when they were looking for a conqueror (one to overtake Rome and rule over Israel).

No one can see or understand the truth until God opened their eyes.

Luke 18:35-43 Jesus Heals, Blind Bartimaeus Sight (Mat 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52)

Luk 18:35 Then it happened, as He(Jesus) was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging

Parallel passage in Mark tells us the blind man is Bartimaeus

Mar 10:46 Now they (Jesus & disciple) came to Jericho (last stop, on His way to Jerusalem). As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging (a good place to beg, for pilgrims heading to Jerusalem would most likely be generous).

Mat 20:29 Now as they went out of Jericho (archeology found two Jericho's, upper and lower, solving; they came into, and going out issue), a great multitude followed Him(Jesus).

Mat 20:30 And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!" (This does not mean that Matthew's report of two blind men is inaccurate, only that Mark and Luke focused on one of them).

Luk 18:36 And hearing a multitude (noise from a crowd) passing by, he asked what it meant (or what was happening).

Luk 18:37 So they told him (blind Bartimaeus) that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by.

Luk 18:38 And he(**blind man**) cried out (**began shouting**), saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (**Son of David, A common Messianic title recognizing the Messiah, as a descendant of David**).

Luk 18:39 Then those who went before (**people in front**) warned him(**blind Bartimaeus**) that he should be quiet (**sternly rebuking him**); but he cried out (**kept shouting**) all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Luk 18:40 So Jesus stood still (**stopped**) and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he(**blind Bartimaeus**) had come near, He asked him,

Luk 18:41 saying, "**What do you want Me to do for you?**" He said (**or replied**), "Lord, that I may receive my sight (**again**)."

Rather than continuing to beg for money, he heard about Jesus doing miracles, so sought Him with His whole heart and faith.

James 4:2c Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

Luk 18:42 Then Jesus said to him, "**Receive (literally regain) your sight; your faith (he had faith and put his personal trust and confidence in Jesus who) has made you well (literally, saved you, he was healed both physically and spiritually).**"

Luk 18:43 And immediately he (**blind Bartimaeus**) received (**regained**) his sight, and followed Him(**Jesus**), glorifying (**praising and honoring**) God. And all the people, when they saw it (**miracle**), gave praise to God.

The blind man now being able to see became a follower of Jesus, glorifying and honoring God

Luk 9:23 Then He(**Jesus**) said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

End

Extra Scriptures:

Charts: next page

Charts:

Examples of Putting Your Treasures in Heaven

<u>Theme</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Short Phrase</u>
Eternal focus	Matthew 6:19–21	Store treasures, where it lasts
Right priorities	Colossians 3:2–3	Set your mind on heaven
Faithful works rewarded	1 Corinthians 3:12–14	God rewards what endures
Giving to others	Luke 12:33–34	Give → gain heavenly treasure
Using money wisely	Luke 16:9	Use wealth for eternity
Giving to the church	Malachi 3:10	Honor God with giving
Supporting ministry	Matthew 10:41–42	Share in their reward
Ministry partnership	Philippians 4:17	Fruit credited to you
Volunteering / serving	1 Peter 4:10	Use your gifts to serve
Serving faithfully	Hebrews 6:10	God remembers your service
Helping the poor	Proverbs 19:17	Lending to the Lord, He will repay
Helping “the least”	Matthew 25:40	Serving others = serving Christ
Cup of water	Matthew 10:42	Small acts count
Hospitality	Hebrews 13:2	Welcome others
Prayer	Matthew 6:6	Secret prayer rewarded
Seeking God	Hebrews 11:6	God rewards seekers
Perseverance	Galatians 6:9	Don’t quit—harvest coming
Generosity	2 Corinthians 9:6	Sow more → reap more
Obedient work	Colossians 3:23–24	Work for the Lord
Self-denial	Matthew 16:24–27	Lose now → gain later
Eternal reward	Revelation 22:12	Jesus brings reward

Practical ways

1) Consistent, sincere prayer

Matthew 6:6 “Pray... in secret, and your Father... will reward you.”

2) Love people (especially the overlooked)

Matthew 25:40 “Whatever you did for one of the least... you did for Me.”

This includes: Poor, Widows, Children, The hurting, less fortunate

3) Generous giving (without seeking attention)

Matthew 6:3–4 “Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing...”

Give quietly → God rewards openly

4) Seek God first (prioritize eternity)

Matthew 6:33 “Seek first the kingdom of God... all these things shall be added to you.”

5) Walk by faith and be faithful in everyday life

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please God ...

Luke 16:10 “Whoever is faithful in little is faithful in much.”