

WORD

¹⁸And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" . . . ²²When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²³But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. **LUKE 18:18,22,23**

One day, a rich ruler went to Jesus and asked Him a very good question. The man wanted to know what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus' answer zeroed in on the condition of the rich ruler's heart—because although the rich ruler was following most of God's commands, he trusted in and loved his wealth more than he trusted in and loved God. When Jesus told the man to sell everything and follow Him, He wasn't saying that we all need to do this to be saved. He was, however, exposing what was in the rich ruler's heart, and He was challenging the man to trust God alone for salvation. Sadly, though, the story shows that the man loved his riches and wealth more than God. Let's look at three lessons from this story.

1 Trust God over earthly riches.

" . . . Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor . . . " **LUKE 18:22**

Jesus wanted the rich ruler to trust God and base his security on God alone. Money, or earthly riches, isn't sin, though the love of money is (1 Timothy 6:10). Money is not what we should love, serve, and treasure. Rather, we should use money to love, serve, and treasure God. Why do you think *the love of money is the root of all kinds of evils*?

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2 Invest in what will matter for eternity.

" . . . and you will have treasure in heaven . . . " **LUKE 18:22**

More than having treasure on earth, Jesus wanted the rich ruler to have *treasure in heaven*. Unlike the rich ruler, why should we have an eternal perspective, instead of a temporal one?

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3 Follow Jesus above all else.

" . . . and come, follow me. " **LUKE 18:22**

The rich ruler wanted to know how to inherit eternal life. But Jesus wanted him to trust God and follow Him, and He knew that nothing the rich man could do would save him. Salvation is God's work, which He completed on the cross. And our response should be to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him (Luke 9:23). How do you think Jesus would have wanted the story to end? How does He want your story to end?

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