

Entering the Kingdom (part 4)

Read Luke 10:25-37; 18:18-30; Matthew 5:20-48 (esp. v20)

1. Do you have any troubling questions about the following passages?
 - a. Luke 10:25-37
 - b. Luke 18:18-37
2. Why do you think that Jesus answered the initial questions of the rich young ruler and the expert in the law (see Luke 10:25; 18:18) in a way that was very different to the Apostle Paul (see Acts 16:30-31)? Clues:
 - i. Was it the same question being asked?
 - ii. What does 'eternal life' mean? What were these men actually asking?
 - iii. Why was obedience to the commandments focused on by Jesus?
3. Jesus commended the expert in the law for answering his question correctly (see Luke 10:28). If the man had not tried to justify himself by asking "who is my neighbour?" he would have walked away from this conversation with "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live" (v28). Does that trouble you?
4. Is the standard of entry into the Kingdom about "selling everything and giving to the poor" or was this man a 'special case'?
5. Jesus also spoke of entry into the Kingdom in Matthew 5:20. Why is this verse so startling? What truth was Jesus communicating about his Kingdom through saying this? (see also Matt. 5:20-48)
6. Having read the Luke 18:18-30 account, do you find yourself asking the question asked in v26? What comforting response did Jesus give? What do you understand Jesus to mean?
7. To recap: what were the entrance requirements of the Kingdom for
 - i. the rich young ruler
 - ii. the expert in the law
 - iii. Nicodemus
 - iv. The women Jesus met at the well... and what in the message for us in this?