



## Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - March 10, 2013

### Sermon

Conversations with Jesus-  
Who did Jesus talk with  
and what does this teach  
us?

#### The Rich Ruler

Luke 18:18-27

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember  
about this sermon...

Monday 3/11/13

Luke 18:18

A certain ruler asked Jesus a question and began by addressing him as “Good Teacher.” This was not at all how a student addressed Rabbis in Jesus’ day. The Rabbis often said, “there is nothing good but the law.” So why was this ruler addressing Jesus as the “Good Teacher?” Was he trying to butter him up or flatter him? By doing this the ruler was possibly exposing his ulterior motives to Jesus. How do you address Jesus?

Tuesday 3/12/13

Luke 18:19

Jesus does not address the ruler with the typical Rabbi’s response about the law being the only good thing. Rather, Jesus points out that no one is good but God alone. This is supported in many scripture references, but in the story of Creation, God declares that each day was good and that the creation of humans was “very good.” Was Jesus’ emphasis here on this ruler’s flattering title and/or the rabbinical teaching of the law being the only good thing? Or maybe Jesus is trying to deflect attention away from himself and toward God. What do you think?

Wednesday 3/13/13

Luke 18:20

Jesus asks the ruler if he is keeping the commandments, since he knows the commandments. Then Jesus lists a few of the commandments--five of them, in fact. Some scholars point out that Jesus mentioned these specific commandments because they are relational commands in how we are to behave with others and with God. Also, in this back-and-forth conversation, anyone, even a child, could have recited some of the commandments. What was Jesus doing here? Do you think he enjoyed the give-and-take conversation on these theological matters? Was he trying to prove an important point?



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

*Make a list of the current priorities in your life right now.*

*Where does God rank in this list of priorities?*

*Give to the poor.*

*Engage in a theological discussion with someone about this story or some other faith issue. See how much you can learn from such a conversation. Or join a Small Group or Sunday School class to learn more.*

Thursday 3/14/13  
Luke 18:21-22

The ruler replies to Jesus that he is in fact keeping the commandments. But Jesus then counters that still one thing is lacking in this ruler's life. He is not distributing to the poor, so Jesus commands him to sell all that he owns and give the money to the poor! Jesus points out that one can keep the law and still be lacking. One can be religious and still be lacking. Where are your priorities? Where are you lacking? What is Jesus telling you to do?

Friday 3/15/13  
Luke 18:23-25

The emotion of this story changes suddenly when the ruler heard Jesus' command. Luke says, "...he became sad." For a man who came to Jesus asking about eternal life and how to obtain it, this man's feelings are not at all what he expected. Luke indicates that the ruler was very rich. He did not want to share his wealth or give it away. He had his priorities wrong. What are your priorities? Where does God rank among your list of priorities?

Saturday 3/16/13  
Luke 18:26-27

Now the crowd or Jesus' disciples speak up. Those who heard this conversation between the ruler and Jesus ask, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus' answer is important. He says, "What is impossible for mortals is possible for God." This is a critical verse and a critical point in this story. Who knows, maybe even this rich ruler eventually came to God because with God all things are indeed possible. What do you think of as impossible? Is there something nagging you that seems impossible to you? What can you do about it? What can God do about it? Bring God into your life and even seemingly impossible things can happen!