

Sermon Text: Luke 18:18-30 One Thing Lacking

Jesus removes all confidence in our goodness and places all confidence in God's goodness.

1) Jesus removes all confidence in our goodness (18:18-26).

- a) A question of eternal life and a question of "good."
 - i) Jesus is the "Good Teacher" (18:18).
 - ii) But what is "good"? Only God (18:19).
 - iii) God's law is good (18:20).
- b) Superficial self-examination leads to overconfidence (18:21).
 - i) Commandments 6-9—love of neighbor
 - ii) Not commandment 1-4—love of God
 - iii) Not commandment 10—covetousness
- c) Jesus probes deeper to reveal idols of the heart (18:22-23).
 - i) "One thing"—one love
 - ii) "you still lack"—a void or emptiness in the soul
 - iii) "all that you have"—material wealth masks the symptoms of spiritual poverty
 - iv) "distribute to the poor"—love of neighbor
 - v) "come, follow Me"—love of God
 - vi) "treasure in heaven"—God
 - vii) "very sad . . . extremely rich"—the realization of the void brings sadness
- d) Jesus reveals humanity's willful inability to enter God's Kingdom (18:24-26).
 - i) "How difficult!"—lament of humanity's condition
 - ii) "camel to go through the eye of a needle"—impossible situation
 - iii) "Then who can be saved?"—They reason from greater to lesser. If this man, who has greater prospects than most, is not able to enter, then how can we enter, who have far fewer prospects?
 - iv) Jesus does not treat the rich in isolation, but as representative of the human condition.
- e) Application:
 - i) Consider the holiness of God.
 - ii) Consider the holiness of His law.
 - iii) Consider the excellence of Christ.
 - iv) Are you lacking the "one thing"?

2) Jesus places all confidence in God's goodness (18:27-30).

- a) "Possible with God"—God's will is more powerful than man's unwillingness
 - i) God grants faith
 - ii) God grants repentance
- b) "many times more . . . and eternal life"—God's goodness cannot be outdone
- c) **Application:**
 - i) Place hope for your salvation in God's goodness in Christ.
 - ii) Place hope for others/society in God's goodness in Christ.
 - iii) Overcome sadness and self-pity with thanksgiving for all you have in Christ "in this time" and with hope of eternal life "in the age to come."

Doxology: Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. Jude 24-25