

March 17, 2019  
Luke 18:18-23 – Application Questions

1. Jesus' interaction with this man takes several odd twists and turns. For example, the man gives Jesus the title "Good Teacher." Immediately Jesus questions the man stating, "Why are you calling me good? Only God is good!" It's easy to misunderstand the intent of Jesus' statement here and think Jesus is denying his own divinity. But other places in the Scriptures Jesus clearly claims that he was God. Before we go further, **how can the following statements be interpreted in different ways?** HINT: Read them carefully!
  - Squad Helps Dog Bite Victim
  - Infant Pulled from Wrecked Car Involved in Short Police Pursuit
  - He Gave Her Cat Food
  - GODISNOWHERE
2. Just like the above statements, the title the man gives Jesus can be interpreted in different ways. Therefore, Jesus gives him an opportunity to clarify his statement about how he views Jesus by saying, "Only God is good." In essence Jesus says to the man, "Only God is good. Are YOU saying I am God?" **What statements might people say about Jesus that sound like a compliment but fall short of calling him God?** The following might help jumpstart our thinking:
  - Jesus was a great \_\_\_\_\_, but...
  - Jesus did a lot of good...
  - Jesus taught similar concepts to...
3. **What is controversial about saying that Jesus is God?**
4. This man knew the Law, but he didn't know the Law-Giver. **What's the difference between knowing "about Jesus" and "knowing Jesus?"**
5. Tell us your story. **For those of you who have moved from "knowing about Jesus" to "knowing Jesus" – what did that look like for you?**
6. Ultimately, Jesus asks this man to sell all his possessions and then follow him. Jesus didn't ask every person to sell their possessions as a condition of following him. The New Testament mentions several faithful followers of Jesus who were also very wealthy. **Why do you think Jesus asked this man to make this sacrifice but didn't necessarily ask the same sacrifice of others?**
7. **How have money and possessions made it more difficult for you to serve Christ? Or easier?**
8. It's difficult to diagnose greed and materialism in ourselves. **How can we tell if we love "stuff" too much?**
9. **What are intentional steps that parents can take to make it easier for their children to learn how to "own stuff" without "stuff owning them?"**
10. Mark 10:17 tells this same story. Mark mentions that Jesus genuinely cared for this man (even though it seems this man decided against following Jesus for the moment). **Why do we need to know that Christ loves us even when we get things wrong?**
11. It's not uncommon for us to have one sticking point or one roadblock that we need to surrender before we can wholeheartedly follow Christ. **What was (or is) your roadblock?**
12. **What's one thing you want us to pray for you that would help you become a more devoted follower of Jesus?**