

Wellspring Covenant Church
March 17, 2024
“Return”
Peter Kim



Luke 18:18-30

18 Once a religious leader asked Jesus this question: “Good Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?”

19 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked him. “Only God is truly good. 20 But to answer your question, you know the commandments: ‘You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. Honor your father and mother.’

21 The man replied, “I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was young.”

22 When Jesus heard his answer, he said, “There is still one thing you haven’t done. Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

23 But when the man heard this he became very sad, for he was very rich.

24 When Jesus saw this, he said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God! 25 In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”

26 Those who heard this said, “Then who in the world can be saved?”

27 He replied, “What is impossible for people is possible with God.”

28 Peter said, “We’ve left our homes to follow you.”

29 “Yes,” Jesus replied, “and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the Kingdom of God, 30 will be repaid many times over in this life, and will have eternal life in the world to come.”

Message Questions:

1. What is something that you’re **holding on to** that God is telling you to let go of?
2. What are you being asked to **give up for God**?
3. What step must you take to **Return to Jesus**?

For your Reflection

- After his encounter with Jesus, the man in today’s story leaves, and grieves as he goes. What do you imagine happens next for him? What could be the next chapter of his story?
- Where have you encountered grief or sadness in your own money story? How might you practice giving this to God or sharing with others to receive God’s grace through them?
- Recall the earlier story in Luke of returning, of the Lost Son (and his brother) in Luke 15. How do you think God feels when we return to God, and to the family of God? Can you sense these emotions of God over you? Is there any place in you that God is waiting for you to come home?

Pray:

If you can, practice holding your hands open to God in prayer as a symbol of loosening your grip.

Take a deep breath in. As you exhale, release to God anything in your money story that holds grief or fear. Take another deep breath in. As you exhale, remember your belovedness in God. Breathe in and out, releasing and remembering as many times as needed.