

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Final Journey – [Luke 18:15-34](#)

And he said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

Luke 18:27

All kinds of people came to Jesus, asking for healing or wisdom or offering to follow Him. Interestingly, Jesus welcomed all of them – but on His terms, not on theirs. In this Bible passage, children were brought to Jesus and a wealthy ruler came to Jesus, asking about eternal life.

The disciples, apparently trying to protect the time of Jesus, shoed away the parents bringing their children to Jesus for a blessing. Certainly the Master had better things to do with His time! But Jesus gladly welcomed the children and held them out as an example for all to come to Him. Everyone desiring to receive the Kingdom of God must come to Him like a child.

Compare this to the wealthy ruler. According to his own words, he tried to do what was right, he called Jesus good and recognized Him as a teacher. But, his desire to hold on to his wealth outweighed his desire to follow Jesus. Jesus invited the wealthy ruler to come with Him, but he would not go with Jesus.

The children came with nothing and, through their parents, only wanted to be touched by Jesus. The ruler came with much and, while he wanted to go with Jesus, preferred to cling to his wealth. The children were blessed by being with Jesus; the ruler was sad while leaving Jesus.

Marveling at the challenges of rich people coming to Jesus, Peter noted the disciples’ willingness to leave home to follow Him. Jesus commended them and used the occasion to teach about His coming arrest, disgraceful treatment, death, and resurrection.

Like the wealthy ruler, so often we want to come to Jesus grasping our plans, our history, our future, our possessions. Our intention is to fit Jesus into our lives. This will never do. He will never fit into our lives and He will never be molded in our image.

If we are to enter the Kingdom of God, we must be molded into the image of Jesus. Our lives are to be placed in His. This will require releasing everything in our grasp and trusting Him to fill us with whatever He desires. All along the journey, Jesus will teach us about the cross and we will learn to follow Him.