



DIFFICULT “The Unwilling” Luke 18:18-27 March 16, 2014

R

- ✓ He Was Rich in This World
- ✓ He Was Religious
- ✓ He Had the Right Approach
- ✓ He Asked the Right Question to the Right Person
- ✓ His Reaction: He Rejected the Answer and the Truth

Christ said

- ✓ Repent of Your Sin and Receive Forgiveness
- ✓ It Is Not About Riches, But Reward
- ✓ It's a Relationship With Me and Not Religion

I

- ✓ He Had an I Problem
- ✓ He Chose to Ignore His Greatest Problem – Pride
- ✓ He Had the Wrong Investment Strategy

Christ said

- ✓ Jesus Invited Him to Invest the Right Way
- ✓ It Is Impossible With Man to Get Salvation, But Possible Only With God to Grant Salvation

C

- ✓ He Was Content
- ✓ He Was Concerned
- ✓ He Was Confused

- ✓ He Kept the Commandments
- ✓ He Was Sorry But Not Convicted

Christ said

- ✓ The Challenge: Do You Want to Be Complete?
- ✓ The Command: Go & Sell All You Have, Give It Away
- ✓ The Call: Come Follow Me

H

- ✓ He Heart Deceived Him
 - That He Had It All
 - That He Had Done It All – Kept the Commandments
 - That He Could Earn It All - His Way to Heaven.

Christ said

It Is About the Surrendered Heart, Not the Religious Heart.

OUR 180° MOMENT

1. You need to surrender your heart to the Lord Jesus for you find yourself incomplete, lacking something in your life. That something is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. **Admit** you are sinner, **Believe** that Jesus is God's Son who came to die for you, **Confess** Him as Savior and Lord, and **Commit** your life to Him! Don't be unwilling today!
2. You need to quit playing games with God, playing religion, doing all the outside stuff with the inside has never truly been changed. Don't just be sorry today, but be convicted and give your life to Christ!
3. Perhaps you have found Christ, but you have turned away from following Him. You have made other things your god and not Him. Would you “sell all you have” and come back to Him today? He is waiting!
4. Be willing to lovingly tell others the truth and share with them how they can miss hell and make heaven!

U-TURN: 180° THE TURNED AROUND LIFE

DIFFICULT

“The Unwilling”

Luke 18:18-27

March 16, 2014 AM Service

We are continuing to look at 180° moments in the book of Luke and how these people were at dead end moments in their lives until they met Jesus. The question and challenge for us this morning is are we willing to make the 180° turn that we need to make in our daily lives. That is what I am praying for today in your life and mine is that very thing, a U-turn that only the Lord can bring in our lives!

Last week we saw Jesus as he sought out the **Despised** and how Jesus placed a clear call to those who are **The Unnoticed and Unlikable**. That's fits us and even those in our lives who are the unnoticed and unlikable – do we reach out to them like Jesus did to us? Last week we turned our attention to the **Unbelievable** as Jesus faces **Death** head on. We stood in awe at these 2 events in the lives of two very different people yet with the same amazing outcome, they were raised from the dead. Are we walking in that Hope and that Truth?!

And this morning we come to another guy in Scripture who is going to have a 180° moment, but let's see what he does with his as we see Jesus dealing with the **Unwilling** – those that are **Difficult**.

Lead us to the great question, since no one is perfect how good is good enough?

Mark brings out the fact that it said and Jesus felt a love for him as he offers him the challenge. That's why he offered him the great challenge. That's why He offers us the same challenge today too! He loves us where we are but also loves us enough to not leave us where we are!

R

- ✓ He was rich in this world (Describe) He was young, he was rich – by most standards though he was middle class (which is most of us), we are all rich compared to the world's standard
- ✓ He was religious – great guy He was a good guy, would have been citizen of the year, moral guy.

- ✓ He had the right approach He did all the right things, fall down
- ✓ before him, called him good Teacher, respect, did all the right things for the wrong reason.
- ✓ He asked the right question to the right person (yet for the wrong reason) Recognized good - that Jesus was different – or did he? What was Jesus saying when he said there is none good but God? “If I am a mere man, a good teacher, then I am not good and do not have the words of eternal life. But if I am God (and I am), then you can truly call me good, and I do have the words of eternal life. He came to the right person and he asked the right question. But here lies the problem, what good deed, what good thing must I do. In other words he was asking, how good is good enough?

He wanted to know the good things he should do, but he did not want to know the only one who was good. For when we know the good One, Jesus Christ, then we are forced to look at ourselves and see that we fall miserably short. The key is not knowing the good thing, but knowing the Good One!

- ✓ His reaction: he rejected the answer and the truth

Christ said

- ✓ Repent of your sin and receive forgiveness, a relationship with Christ.
- ✓ It is not about riches, but reward. It’s about being a good steward of that which God has given you. Is being rich wrong? Are we supposed to be rich? A word about being rich. Anything wrong with it? Is that all that Jesus is dealing with here? No, there is far more at stake, but let it not slip easily by that he a stern and challenging warning about \$\$, possessions, the key is not allowing what you possess to possess you. [Luke 12:18-21](#), foolish rich man, [Matthew 6:20](#), it is a matter of perspective. Are we using what we possess for God’s glory or for our own. [See I Timothy 6:17-19](#) Nothing wrong with owning stuff as long as the stuff does not own you.
- ✓ Relationship with me and not religion
The problem was he really didn’t worship the Lord, he did have another god before him, and it was himself and his possessions and he used them all for himself.

Want to know what your god is today? Look at your calendar, your thought, your checkbook, your time, your energy, and your devotion and passion, there you will find what your god is! [See McArthur](#)

I

- ✓ He had an I problem – It was all about him – no one or nothing else mattered but himself. He couldn't see past the tip of his own nose, his own goodness which wasn't really that good.
- ✓ He chose to ignore his greatest problem – pride See [Luke 18:9-14](#) for the Pharisee and his pride and the publican [Matthew 7:22-23](#)
[See Lucado – Cast of Characters #1](#)
- ✓ He had the wrong investment strategy - his false ideas: goodness can be achieved, eternal life can be earned, and everything can be bought for a price including eternal life. What is the minimum I have to do to get by – what is the fire insurance ticket? He asks the right question but with the wrong motive. How much do I need to invest to be certain of my return? What's the least I have to do? What are the things to check off my list to earn my way to heaven?

Christ Said

- ✓ Jesus invited him to invest the right way – God's way for everything operate different in God's economy. It's not investing in what we do for God, it's found in what He did for us. God does for us what we can't do for ourselves. It's not about investing in doing the good things, it's about asking Christ to do in us what we can't accomplish – perfection.
- ✓ It is impossible with man to get salvation, but possible only with God to grant salvation
The disciples were shocked, well if the rich young ruler doesn't make it, then who will. They were deceived as well into thinking that riches were a sign of God's blessing and favor (which was an Old Testament idea – if you follow me I will bless you not make you rich). With God all things are possible, for any man to come and receive salvation. Thank God salvation isn't based on who we are or what we have, but based on who God is and what He offers, the free gift of eternal life through the death of His only Son! [John 3:16](#)

We are conditioned for performance, everything in our world is based on how you perform, your job, your school, your hobbies, sports, even in being in many families, love is based on how you perform. Yet, it is completely opposite with God for it is not how you perform or what you do, it is not some system but the fact we need a Savior, you don't need a Resume, you need a Redeemer. We cannot save ourselves. It is absolutely impossible.

It's not what I can do for God, but what He can do for me.

C

- ✓ He was content I am up and coming guy, religious, nice, rich, and yet...
- ✓ He was Concerned – Something just wasn't right in his life and he just couldn't seem to figure it out.
- ✓ He was Confused – for he thought it was about conquering and not surrender.
- ✓ He kept the commandments or so he thought he did – I've done all that- what else do I still need to do. Which we all know He did not – the Pharisees had lowered the bar so far that they thought they were good because they kept the modified law.
- ✓ He was sorry (grieved) but never convicted so that it led to change. He was sad, but not convicted. He was sorry or he saw the error of his ways, but was simply not willing to change. His reaction – He was very sad, even grieved why? Wasn't the answer he was looking for? He realized the truth and knew he loved his \$, his life, his comfort, whatever more than He loved God (Jesus) He walked away with a full safe but an empty soul.

Christ said

- ✓ The Challenge: If you want to be Complete (the word, perfect, to be like Christ *telos* – to be made whole, just as we have seen in the last two weeks of the leper and those raised from the dead. If you truly want to find the answer, then here it is.

In Luke's and Mark's account, Jesus sees that he is still lacking, and yet in Matthew, he says what do I still lack. Is there a discrepancy there?

Oh no, for Christ sees our deep need and know that we are lacking and He is waiting for us to see the same thing, but then once we see it we

must do something about it. The rich young ruler was not. You still lack just one thing (He wasn't lacking piety or even righteous living, only missing the single, key most important ingredient – surrender to the Savior)

- ✓ **The Command:** go and sell all you have, give it to the poor Sell it all everything – for this young man had not kept the commandment that another ruler had asked, sum up the law Lord, love the Lord your God – and your neighbor, he gives him a chance to do just that, sell everything (your soul – the Lord, nothing is more important than me) and then give it to the poor (your neighbor)

Is selling all you have yet another requirement for salvation? NO way. He wasn't selling all he had and giving it away to earn for salvation, but simply as a proof and outward demonstration of the inward change that would naturally occur.

Jesus simply went to the heart of the issue with this young man? Are you willing to leave everything you have (family, friends, money, talents, your pride, possessions, whatever) leave it behind & follow me? **Quote: “Genuine belief always changes a person’s behavior. People act on what they believe to be true and they cling to what the treasure.” Swindoll** Put another way – **“Can you live without your possessions but cannot live without your God?” Anders**

The rich young ruler wasn't willing to sacrifice his greatest possessions, himself and his stuff, to let them go and let God have his way in his life. People would say, that is asking too much, too much sacrifice to give it all away. Yet do we really understand sacrifice?

ILLUS: David Livingstone – read his biography – missionary in Africa in the 19th century (?), he lost his wife, all he had, his own health, and someone said to him, **“what sacrifices you have made, and he answered them, “Sacrifices? I never made a sacrifice in all my life!”** He got the picture, to keep your life means you lose it, but to give away your life means you find it.

And by the way – the return is far greater in heaven than we can ever earn here on this earth! The Reward is great in heaven!

- ✓ **The call:** Come follow me After that, you have surrendered everything to me – then you come and follow me. (take up your cross daily, deny yourself, and follow me.

Just because you come to Christ does not mean that you get to ignore the commandments. In fact just the opposite, but the difference is your motivation. The rich young ruler was motivated by a duty to God, to please himself and man, and not the Father. A believer is motivated out of love for the Father, it is not obedience but delight.

H

✓ He heart deceived him

- **That He Had It All** – I have the good life, what more could one ask for. I am living the life, got all the stuff, religious, and on and on.
- **That He Had Done it All - Kept the Commandments** – I am good enough I have done it all, kept the commandments, I have been a good boy,

Yet Jesus goes straight to the heart, He calls him on it, he says, ok, let's assume that you have, (which we all know that he hadn't) yet you are still lacking one thing (which I believe the rich young ruler knew, but yet didn't want to admit it – yet why else would he be asking)

- **That He Could Earn It All - His Way to Heaven.**

The rich young ruler's ultimate problem was not his wealth itself but his trust in his wealth and his own ability to meet God's standards for his acceptance. (to buy his way into heaven)

He wanted to come to Christ on his own terms, and when we come to Christ we must come on his terms, and folks they are not easy. We must not water down the gospel anymore – You must deny yourself, take up your cross daily and follow me. (Asking him into your heart is simple – the challenge is in the following)

Christ said

✓ It is about the surrendered heart, not the religious heart.

God does not save us because of what we have done. He says I am not after what you do (the religious things, the moral things, the outward things that others see and are impressed by), but after who you can become in Me, what you can't do without me. Only a puny god could be bought with money. Only an egotistical god would be impressed by our pain. Only a temperamental god could be satisfied by sacrifices. Only a heartless god would sell salvation to the highest bidder. And

only a great God does for His children what they cannot do for themselves. [Matthew 5:5](#) “[Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.](#)” We don’t brag, we beg. We are aware of how sinful we are and how holy He is and how far short we fall and how much we really need Jesus! That we are nothing without Him!

OUR 180° MOMENT

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3. Perhaps you have found Christ, but you have turned away from following Him. You have made other things your god and not Him. Would you “sell all you have” and come back to Him today? He is waiting!
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Some of us would go as the rich young ruler, right to the very edge of eternity, do all the outward things, think we can do the bare minimum and that be enough, but it isn’t. The problem is we just want Him to be our Savior and not our Lord, to be a part of our life but not our whole life. We will give up everything but this one area, my family, my relationships, my habits, my addictions, whatever.

2 kinds of people here today. Those that are saved and those that are not. Either headed to heaven or headed to hell. Some would say three kinds of people, those who know they are lost, they who think they are saved, or trying to act like they are saved, but aren’t and those who have been genuinely saved and transformed.

And there are some that here today that are saved, and they have done the bare minimum and no more, yet claiming the name Christ but doing nothing that shows a changed life.

Closing ILLUS: Example of Bill (road crew supervisor on County Road 24 – I used to Baptist, now Catholic, what kind – practicing or not, well I worship the Creator more because I am out in His creation, I still drink, smoke, and cuss, but that is just who I am. Lot of rich young rulers walking around through the hallways of our church and our Walmart. It is not about being religious for that is religion, well I do this, but I still have these things I hang on to, and God will just have to let me have these, He'll just have to understand. When in fact it is about a relationship. I don't want to do the things that break the heart of my Savior. I want to please Him and serve, Him, and surrender to Him. It is not I can't give these things up, it is that I won't. That is what the rich young ruler said. He made the decision. So you and I have a decision to make today. I am convinced that if you truly have found Christ your life will change, and if you do sin that there is ultimately confession and repentance, we don't stay there permanently, make our home there.