

Don't Raise "Good" People

(Luke 18:18-30)

Introduction

1. [Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to experience the power of the gospel & impact the culture.
2. Is your dream for your kids or yourself to be happy, moral & successful? Is that God's dream?
 - a. We'll look at a young man who was raised pretty well, and is all of the above.

Goodness is measured through God [Luke 18:18-21]

1. [18-19] Who is good enough to earn Heaven?
 - a. [18] The rich young ruler asks: What acts must I do to earn eternal life based on my performance/merit.
 - i. He calls Jesus "Good Teacher", a quality that rabbinic teachers only ascribe to God.
 - b. [19] Jesus responds: God alone is good.
 - i. Jesus is not saying He's not good; He's sinless (cf. Heb 4:15).
2. [20-21] Goodness is defined through God
 - a. [20] In order to be saved, Jesus focuses on God, the standard of goodness: Obey God's will & Word.
 - b. [21] The young man evaluates his own goodness by the wrong measuring stick.
 - c. His false assumptions:
 - i. Somehow he's able to accumulate enough good credit with God to earn eternal life.
 - ii. Prosperity is a sign of God's approval & blessing; he must be living right/holy.
 - iii. He thinks he follows God's ways pretty well; He's a good/moral person.
3. Problem: Self-righteousness
 - a. He's convinced of his goodness based on his own efforts/works.
 - b. He uses a skewed mirror, ignoring his blind spots & spiritual blemishes.
 - c. He fails to use the objective measure of God (who is completely holy & good).
 - d. Application: We need to see ourselves & our sinfulness in light of God's goodness & holiness.

Your eternity depends on what you treasure [Luke 18:22-25]

1. [22] It's not about what you do/have, but what you treasure
 - a. Jesus confronts him with a choice: Is your treasure here on earth or in Heaven?
 - i. You have to choose because your treasure always goes to where your heart is (cf. Luke 12:34).
 - b. The issue is not about wealth:
 - i. Jesus is not saying you shouldn't earn, save, spend/invest wisely, or even enjoy things of this life.
 - ii. Jesus promises that you can store up heavenly treasure, if willing to invest in eternal dividends.
 - c. Heart issue: The young man values, prioritizes, holds on to, worships things of this life above God.
 - d. The issue is not about belief:
 - i. The young man believes in God, His Word, & that Jesus may be a messenger from God.
 - ii. Faith is not just about what you believe or about trying to be good.
 - e. Central meaning: No one enters the Kingdom unless they humbly repent from sin (in this case, idol worship) & surrender their life completely to Jesus (follow).
 - i. We must die to self & worship of this life, and, under those terms, follow Him (cf. Luke 9:23-24).
2. [23] Tragic response. He can't/won't. Why?
 - a. He doesn't treasure/worship/love Jesus as God more than the stuff of this life.
 - b. He doesn't trust what Jesus offers is better because he doesn't know Jesus.

- c. He doesn't know how good Jesus is, & how good he himself is not.
 - d. Even with the promises of heavenly reward, he preferred earthly riches.
3. [24-25] Jesus teaches it's tough for those whose security/comfort is in the things of this life to be saved to eternal life.
- a. The path through Him is a narrow gate; we carry too much baggage to get through (cf. Matt 7:13-14).
 - b. Application: If Jesus asked you to give it up, what is it that you'd have a hard time letting go?

Jesus is your eternal life & treasure [Luke 18:26-30]

1. [26-27] Jesus is the way to eternal life
- a. [26] Jesus' followers get the point: Who (rich or poor) can save themselves?
 - b. [27] Jesus responds: No man can, but God makes it possible, i.e., I am the One who can help.
 - i. Jesus alone makes salvation possible (cf. John 14:6).
 - ii. He died in our place for our sin to be our Savior.
 - iii. Jesus loves and can save those who are poor/aware of their sin, & those who are rich/moral.
2. [28-30] Jesus is a better treasure.
- a. [28] Jesus' followers have given up everything to follow Him.
 - b. [29] Jesus is not advocating abandoning home or family, but following Him requires sacrifice of comfort & security in things of this life.
 - c. [30] Anyone who's made sacrifices for Jesus' sake will receive so much more now & in the life to come.
 - d. Application: Know Jesus as your treasure/source of life.
 - i. He is the God who provides everything we're looking for in life: our needs, joy, love, cleansing, freedom, meaning, fulfillment.
 - ii. Don't love/worship this life; you'll miss out on so much more now & to come through Jesus.

Conclusion

1. Challenge: Moms, don't raise good kids; raise kids who are desperately aware of who they are before God.
- a. Teach them to value Jesus above all things.
2. Challenge: Decide Jesus is a better God to treasure/worship than the things of this life.