



Becoming Ready DEVOTIONAL | JUNE 8

RECEIVE

Luke 18:18–30 serves as a striking example of a person who desires the blessings of God but is not ready to embrace the transformation required to receive them. It is easy to look in on this story from the outside and criticize the man for his unwillingness to change while he is literally face to face with Jesus. Two thousand years of hindsight might make it seem easy to comment from this side of history. However, we find echoes of our own lives speaking in this story. Most of us struggle with life-change—we may give a nod or a casual assent to the idea, but when faced with the details and logistics of what it takes to change, we struggle. Step 6 in our Steps series is about change and how we can go from “almost ready to entirely ready” to change our lives for the glory and goodness of God.

REFLECT

The Desire for Eternal Life | Luke 18:18

1. What do you think the man is seeking when he asks Jesus what he needs to do to gain eternal life?
2. As a successful person in leadership, what may have been some of his motivations for asking this question or for speaking with Jesus in the first place?

Clinging to the Familiar | Luke 18:22–23

3. How does the man respond to Jesus' instruction on what to do?
4. Why does the man struggle with Jesus' reply?
5. When you read this passage, what are your own reactions to Jesus' suggestion?
6. What do you think Jesus was ultimately after with this man?
The man's resources or relationship?
7. What "possessions" in your life—whether material wealth, habits, or relationships—are you unwilling to surrender?

The Challenge of Change | Luke 18:24–27

Jesus explains how difficult it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God. How we steward our material resources is incredibly important to God. However, once again we must ask the question as to whether Jesus is simply after finances or, is He ultimately after a posture of the heart.

8. Reflect on areas in your life where you feel change is impossible.
Do you trust God's ability to work in those areas? If so, why? If not, what keeps you from trusting that God can move you to a different place?

The Opportunity for Transformation | Luke 18:28–30

Peter highlights the sacrifices made by the disciples, and Jesus promises blessings in this life and eternal life for those who follow Him. How do the sacrifices Jesus suggests point to the idea of a heart posture?

9. Are you holding onto something that is preventing you from experiencing the fullness of God? What are the hidden costs of not changing your life—missed opportunities, unfulfilled purpose, or lack of peace?

BLESSING

God, Your Scriptures tell us that You are the same yesterday, today and forever. This means we can trust You and trust Your invitation for change and growth. Help us release our grip on what we cling to and work so hard to keep in our grip. Help us let go of the habits, ideas, and identities that we grasp to and may we take one small step this week toward letting go of them. This is hard and this changes everything, so we ask You to go easy on us God, help us to find our way, and guide us toward You in love and grace. Thank You for your patience and eternal love with and for us. Amen.