

Adult Study Guide for April 25, 2021
Is Wealthy Healthy?
Luke 18:18-30

Goal: To find the “sweet spot” for our wealth while seeking God’s kingdom first.

Key Verse: *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* – Matthew 6:21 (NIV)

1. Think back on the stages of your life. What relationship was there between the amount of your wealth and the level of your happiness? How has wealth influenced your spiritual growth? Do you feel more drawn to those who preach the Prosperity Gospel or those who preach the Poverty Gospel? How has Scripture influenced your position in this debate?

2. Review the story of the rich young ruler in Luke 18:18-21. He is called a young man in Matthew 19:22, and Mark 10:21 says that Jesus looked at him and loved him. He apparently had high social status since he was called a ruler. He had it all, but he was aware that something was still missing in his life. What question does he ask Jesus? What need was behind that question? What misunderstanding of the gospel does that question suggest?

3. Review Luke 18:22-23. What does Jesus say the rich man lacked? How would giving everything to the poor help him in his spiritual journey? Read Matthew 6:19-21. What reason does Jesus give us for not storing up treasures on earth? What is the alternative? (Compare with the Parable of the Rich Fool in Luke 12:16-21.)

4. Review Luke 18:24-27. Why did Jesus say it is hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of God? How can that be true if wealth is a sign of God’s blessing? In what ways can riches prove to be a stumbling block for the growth of our faith?

5. Review Luke 18:28-30. The disciples paid a high price to follow Jesus – they left their families and their wealth behind. They did what the rich young ruler was unwilling to do. What did Jesus promise in return?

6. Read Proverbs 30:7-9. How do these verses define the “sweet spot” for our wealth? What does Matthew 6:33 teach us about the need to keep our priorities in the right place? How much is “just right” so that money does not corrupt you? (1 Timothy 6:9-10)