

Finally, we turn to Luke 18. Imagine yourself in the shoes of the rich young man as we read Luke 18:18-30. Then write out your answers to the following questions.

Do you think this man really wanted to follow Jesus? Why or why not?

Do you think Jesus was literally telling this man to sell all he had and give it to the poor?

Do you think Jesus would say the same thing to you today if you were to see Him? Why or why not? If He were to say these words to you today, how do you think you would respond?

Why do you think it is hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of God?

Why do you think Jesus takes such a radical stance on riches in relation to poverty?

Do you think Jesus' words, if taken seriously, would have a radical effect on your life? What would that effect look like?

Do you think Jesus' words, if taken seriously, would have a radical effect on our church? What would that effect look like?

After you finish these questions and as you wait for the pastor to close our time in prayer and reflection, pray that God will help you understand how the story of the rich young man applies to your life.

RADICAL

September 7, 2008 • Dr. David Platt

RADICAL: What the Gospel Demands
Luke 14:33

The All-Important Question...

Do we _____ this Book?

- Do we believe what this Book says about the _____?
Luke 9:57-62...
 - ▶ Will we choose _____ or a _____?
 - ▶ Will we choose _____ or _____?
 - ▶ Will we choose _____ minds or _____ hearts?

- Do we believe what this Book says about the _____?
 - ▶ 2 Thessalonians 1:7 - "This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His power."
 - ▶ Revelation 20:15 - "If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."
 - ▶ Over _____ people (including hundreds of thousands in metro Birmingham) today are on a road that leads to eternal hell.

- Do we believe what this Book says about the _____?
 - ▶ Today, over a billion people live (and die) in desperate poverty (less than a dollar a day).
 - ▶ Close to two billion others live on less than two dollars a day.
 - ▶ _____ children today will breathe their last breath due to either starvation or a preventable disease.
 - ▶ We are not inconvenienced by this extreme poverty because those stricken by it are not only poor... they are _____.
 - Literally millions of them are quietly dying in relative obscurity and we can comfortably ignore them in our affluence, pretending like they don't even exist.
 - ▶ Meanwhile, they do exist, and God measures the _____ of our faith by our _____ for the poor.
 - ▶ On a most serious note, Jesus tells those with abundance that if they do not feed the hungry and clothe the naked, they go to _____.
 - ▶ Proverbs 14:31 - "Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker."
 - ▶ Proverbs 21:13 - "If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and be answered."
 - ▶ Proverbs 28:27 - "He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses."

- ▶ Luke 6:20-25 - “Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you that hunger now, for you shall be satisfied... Woe to you that are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you that are full now, for you shall hunger.”
- ▶ James 5:1 - “Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you.”
- ▶ Matthew 19:21-23 - “Jesus answered, ‘If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.’ When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.’”
- ▶ Matthew 25:41 - To those who do not feed the hungry and clothe the naked, Jesus says, “Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”

The Necessary Conclusion...

It is time to get _____.

We begin by opening our Bibles to Luke 14. Imagine being in the crowd of people following Jesus as we read Luke 14:25-35. Then write out your answers to the questions below.

If you were in that crowd and you heard these words, what would be your initial reaction?

According to this passage, what does it cost to follow Jesus?

Practically, what is it costing you to follow Jesus?

Would you describe your obedience to Jesus as radical? Why or why not?

How do you think your obedience to Jesus needs to be more radical?

After you finish these questions and as you wait for the pastor to lead us to another Scripture passage, reflect on Jesus’ words in Luke 14:25-35 and pray that God will help you understand how they apply to your life.

Next, we turn to Matthew 9. Imagine the countenance and demeanor of Jesus as we read Matthew 9:35-38. Then reflect on these verses and write out your answers to the questions below.

Describe in your own words why you believe Jesus had such compassion for the people around Him. How do you think this compassion was evident in the way He lived?

Why do you think Jesus pleaded with his disciples to go into the harvest field?

When Jesus talked about the harvest field, He was referring to imagery of judgment. He knew that apart from trusting in Him, the people around Him stood under the eternal judgment of God. Do you believe that the people around you who do not trust in Jesus stand under the eternal judgment of God? What emotions does that incite in you?

If you believe that people without Christ are currently under the judgment of God and will one day be separated from His love forever, how does this change the way you live everyday?

Would you say that your life is marked by radical compassion for the lost? Why or why not?

How do you think radical compassion for the lost can become a reality in your life?

After you finish these questions and as you wait for the pastor to lead us to our last Scripture passage, reflect on the compassion of Jesus in Matthew 9:35-38 and pray that God will give you His compassion.

RADICAL

RADICAL: What the Gospel Demands **Luke 14:33**

The All-Important Question...

Do we **believe** this Book?

- Do we believe what this Book says about the **church**?
Luke 9:57-62...
 - ▶ Will we choose **comfort** or a **cross**?
 - ▶ Will we choose **maintenance** or **mission**?
 - ▶ Will we choose **indecisive** minds or **undivided** hearts ?

- Do we believe what this Book says about the **lost**?
 - ▶ 2 Thessalonians 1:7 - "This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power."
 - ▶ Revelation 20:15 - "If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."
 - ▶ Over **4.5 billion** people (including hundreds of thousands in metro Birmingham) today on a road that leads to eternal hell.
 - ▶ Will we choose **indecisive** minds or **undivided** hearts ?

- Do we believe what this Book says about the **poor**?
 - ▶ Today, over a billion people live (and die) in desperate poverty (less than a dollar a day).
 - ▶ Close to two billion others live on less than two dollars a day.
 - ▶ **30,000** children today will breathe their last breath due to either starvation or a preventable disease.
 - ▶ We are not inconvenienced by this extreme poverty because those stricken by it are not only poor... they are **powerless**.
 - Literally millions of them are quietly dying in relative obscurity and we can comfortably ignore them in our affluence, pretending like they don't even exist.
 - ▶ Meanwhile, they do exist, and God measures the **integrity** of our faith by our concern for the poor.
 - ▶ On a more serious note, Jesus tells those with abundance that if they do not feed the hungry and clothe the naked, they go to **hell**.
 - ▶ Proverbs 14:31 - "Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker."
 - ▶ Proverbs 21:13 - "If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and be answered.."
 - ▶ Proverbs 28:27 - "He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses."