

Journey to Jerusalem, Part 3: Giving Up Your Treasure To Get  
Something Better, Luke 18:18-30, p. 1039

Pop-Quiz: After Jesus said, “you still lack one thing” what did he asked the ruler to do?

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**Question for Application**

What is Jesus asking me to give up so that I can follow him better?

A “bonus” message from Luke 18:18-30

**Why did God let this happen to me?**

Have you or a loved one ever asked this question? I don’t claim to have all the answers (or even most of the answers) but I believe in some cases our loss is orchestrated by God for the reasons discussed in this passage. Because of his great love for us, God takes away what we treasure, so that we will be able to see Jesus as something better.

Jesus said, “it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” Riches make us think we are self sufficient. Riches give us something to pay attention to. Sometimes it is only when riches are taken away that we will consider our need for God. The pain people experience: loss of health, loss of physical ability, loss of money, loss of relationships may actually be the blessing God gives someone so that they will turn to him.

Chuck Colson went from the highest levels of political power to jail before he decided to follow Jesus. Joni Erickson Tada’s faith and influence impact millions, but she has gained these things through the great trials that come from being a quadriplegic. The influential Christian musician Keith Green turned to Jesus after losing so much through drugs and alternative religions during the early years of his life.

Even more important than these ‘famous’ examples, we come across people in churches all the time who are there because of what they have lost. God may even bless you with loss so that you can receive what is better—the life Jesus desires for you, and the blessing of eternal life.

Let us serve one another through the easy times and the trials of life. Let us point one another to what is better—a life following Jesus.

*Pastor Travis*