

Week 2: Jesus and the Rich Ruler

Focus verse: “Jesus said, Things that are impossible for human beings are possible for God.”
Luke 18:27

This week’s Bible reading: Luke 18:18-30

Additional Readings:

- Deuteronomy 8:10-19
- Matthew 6:24
- Luke 8: 14
- Luke 12:34
- 1 Timothy 6:10
- Matthew 6:24

Video Resources:

David Flowers – The Rich Young Ruler’s Barrier <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFtxMt-g6wg>

Generosity Stories - Paul and Karen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r3BCh3UDWfc>

Prayers

Thematic Prayer

Father God, please help us to understand clearly the generosity that you have shown, in giving us your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to understand that you ask us to show the same generosity in all that we say and do, including in how we prioritise the way in which we use our finances and possessions. We thank you for the blessings that financial stability offers us, but ask that you would help us in our understanding of how to flourish in the area of giving, so that we can develop practically and spiritually and come into closer communion with you. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Faithful One, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives. For the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession

*Lord, when we avoid the hard questions that you ask; Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Jesus, when we fail to trust you for our futures; Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, when we cling to tightly to our possessions; Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.***

Collect

Father of all, you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son, and you pour out your Spirit in a continuing activity of grace. May we be so caught up in the richness of your grace that our own giving is renewed and our own selves refreshed by the living water of Jesus, in whose precious name we pray. Amen.

A Prayer for Giving

Heavenly Father, give grace to us, the living stones who form your Church, to reflect prayerfully at this special time on our love for you and our neighbour. Make us mindful of the many gifts you bestow upon us. We ask that your Holy Spirit will inspire and direct us in our choice of giving, remembering that we are only giving back that which is truly yours. Strengthen us, Lord, to meet this challenge according to your will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord who has given all that we might live. Amen.

Prayer of Declaration

*We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

Prayers of Intercession

*We pray for grace and strength to live as those accountable before God, saying
Lord, in your mercy, **make us faithful stewards of your goodness.***

*We pray for the leaders of nations, for honesty, integrity, justice and compassion in national and international politics and especially in the area of debt.
Lord, in your mercy, **make us faithful stewards of your goodness.***

*We pray for the Church in all the world. May all you have called to leadership have renewed passion for the Gospel, eagerness for the health of the Church, and accountability in all their ways, that they may reflect the glory of Christ.
Lord, in your mercy, **make us faithful stewards of your goodness.***

*We pray for the sick and the sorrowing and all who need your healing touch. For the Church's ministry of healing and caring.
Lord, may we give realistically so that your Church may minister effectively.
Lord, in your mercy, **make us faithful stewards of your goodness.***

*Father, we bless you for all who have gone before us in the faith of Christ, and especially we remember...
Lord, in your mercy, **make us faithful stewards of your goodness.***

*Merciful Father,
**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.***

Offertory

Consider all that God has done for you, especially as you see this in Jesus. 'Count your blessings' and respond with appropriate generosity from your material wealth.

Blessing

*May the Holy Spirit who gives gifts to all people, flood your hearts with thanksgiving to God. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.***

*Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.*