

GIVE IT ALL AWAY! . . .OR NOT?

(a discipleship study of Luke 18:18-30 through the lens of **"Get to the River"** – Joshua 3)

1. Read Joshua 3:5,14 – The people are now fully ready to cross over into the land of promise.
2. Read Luke 18:18-30
 - a. **The man:** a religious leader who possessed substantial wealth
 - b. **The question:** "What should I do to inherit eternal life?" (i.e., what should I do to cross the river to receive the promise?)
 - c. **The answer:** "You know the commandments."
 - d. **The man's reply:** "Yup, been there, done that."
 - e. **The reply Jesus gave to the man's reply:**
 - i. Sell all your possessions
 - ii. Give the proceeds to the poor
 - iii. This will result in treasure in heaven
 - iv. Come follow me
 - f. **The man's response:** he became very sad, not wanting to give up his wealth
 - g. **The response of Jesus:** material wealth can be an obstacle for rich people relative to entering the Kingdom of God
 - h. **The response of those hearing:** "Then who in the world can be saved?"
 - i. The perception of the day was that wealth was a sign of God's blessing. Therefore, to give away one's wealth would be a sign of God removing his blessing.
 - ii. If the wealthy can't be saved, then who can?
 - i. **The response of Jesus:** "What is impossible for people is possible with God."
 - i. **Peter's response:** "We've left our homes to follow you." i.e.: businesses, families, everything (in the hopes of receiving a greater material return for their investment perhaps?)
 - ii. **Jesus responds to Peter:** ". . . whatever you've given up for the sake of the Kingdom of God will be repaid many times over in this life, and will have eternal life in the world to come."
3. **The big question:** Is Jesus telling us today to do the same – sell everything and give to the poor?
 - a. **Read:** 1 Peter 1:18-19, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 7:20-23
 - i. **What are the implications of the above passages?**
 1. Your body belongs to God
 2. Your societal standing belongs to God
 3. Your time belongs to God
 4. Your possessions belong to God
 - a. **Therefore:** Everything we have and are is to be creatively and generously used to advance God's Kingdom.
4. **The other big question:** What does it look like to be repaid many times over in this life?