

**“What is impossible
with man
is possible with God.”**

Luke 18:18-30

“What is impossible with man . . .”

Luke 18:18-20

18 A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” **19** “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good — except God alone. **20** You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’”

“What is impossible with man . . .”

“This ruler sought reassurance, some way of knowing for sure that he had eternal life. He wanted Jesus to measure and grade his qualifications, or to give him some task he could do to assure his immortality. So Jesus gave him a task...”

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“What is impossible with man . . .”

Luke 18:21-22

21 “All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said. **22** When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

“What is impossible with man . . .”

Mark 10:21a

**21 Jesus looked at him and
loved him.**

“What is impossible with man . . .”

“[In Mark 10:21] Jesus recognized the man’s earnestness. Jesus’ response was not intended to shame the man by exposing failure to understand the spiritual depth of the commandments but was a expression of genuine love.”

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“What is impossible with man . . .”

“This man’s wealth made his life comfortable and gave him power and prestige. By telling him to sell everything he owned, Jesus was touching the very basis of his security and identity. This man did not understand that he would be even more secure if he followed Jesus than he was with all his wealth.”

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“What is impossible with man . . .”

Luke 18:23-25

23 When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy. **24** Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! **25** Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

“What is impossible with man . . .”

“The camel was the largest animal found in the Holy Land. The vivid contrast between the largest animal and the smallest opening represents what, humanly speaking, is impossible. The oft-repeated suggestion that one of Jerusalem’s gates was called the Needle’s Eye is unsubstantiated.”

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“What is impossible with man . . .”

Luke 18:26-27

26 Those who heard this asked,
“Who then can be saved?”

27 Jesus replied, “What is
impossible with man is possible
with God.”

“What is impossible with man . . .”

“Who then can be saved?” the bystanders asked. “No one can, by his or her own achievements.” Jesus’ answer implied. “What is impossible with men is possible with God.” Salvation cannot be earned-it’s God’s gift.”

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“What is impossible with man . . .”

Ephesians 2:8-10

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — **9** not by works, so that no one can boast. **10** For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

“What is impossible with man . . .”

Romans 1:17

17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed — a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

“What is impossible with man . . .”

Luke 18:28-30

28 Peter said to him, “We have left all we had to follow you!” **29** “Truly I tell you,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God **30** will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.”

“What is impossible with man . . .”

“Since wealth is sometimes viewed in the Old Testament and Judaism as evidence of God’s blessing, it was popularly believed that the rich were favored by God.”

**Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background
Commentary**

“What is impossible with man . . .”

“Peter and the other disciples had paid a high price - leaving their homes and jobs - to follow Jesus.

But Jesus reminded Peter that following Jesus has its benefits as well as its sacrifices. Any believer who has had to give up something to follow Christ will be repaid in this life as well as the next.”

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Application

**What stumbling block does
Jesus want us to give up?**

“What is impossible with man . . .”

“Jesus does not ask all believers to sell everything they have, although that may be His will for some. He does ask us all, however, to get rid of anything that has become more important than God. If your basis for security has shifted from God to what you own, it would be better for you to get rid of those possessions.”

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Final Thoughts

1 Timothy 6:17-19

17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. **18** Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. **19** In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Final Thoughts

Ecclesiastes 12:13

13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: **Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.**

Final Thoughts

Matthew 6:19-21

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Final Thoughts

Mark 10:27

27 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”