



Sermon Growth Guide

October 5, 2025

Peace

Luke 18:18-30

Key Verse: Luke 18:27: “Jesus replied, ‘What is impossible with man is possible with God.’”

Big Idea: Peace comes through surrender to Jesus.

Foundations

There’s an old hymn which begins, “All to Jesus I surrender, all to him I freely give.” The rich young ruler asks Jesus, “...what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Instead of giving him something to do, Jesus asks what he is willing to surrender. What Jesus asks of the young man seems impossible. Give up his wealth, status, and power in order to follow Jesus. In fact, the young man walks away sad, because he is not able to surrender his wealth. But Jesus tells his Disciples there is good news. Our English translations miss the real implications of Jesus’ response: “What is impossible with man is possible with God.” We tend to think of something like scientific possibility. But Jesus is actually talking about power. What humans don’t have the power to do (*adynata* in Greek), God does (*dynata*). It’s the Gospel of grace in a nutshell. But the surprise is that God’s power is needed not to help us do something, but to help us surrender. If we want to inherit eternal life, we need to rely on God’s power to help us let go of whatever is holding us back from following Jesus. Instead of looking to wealth, power, youth, or our own righteousness, we trust Jesus with our lives, both now and in the age to come. In our sermon series we are asking the question, how do we satisfy our desire for peace? Peace comes through surrender to Jesus. This might be the hardest thing we are ever asked to do. But don’t worry. What is impossible for us, is possible for God.

Understanding God’s Word

Read Luke 18:18-30 together. Why do you think Jesus challenges the young man when he addresses Jesus as “good”? Consider Matthew 6:24. Does this verse from the Sermon on the Mount shed any light on our story in Luke?

Applying God’s Word

Do you find doing something for God or giving up something for God more challenging? If Jesus were talking with you, is there anything in your life he might ask you to surrender in order to follow him more fully? Is there anything which might be coming between you and the peace of Christ?

Witnessing God’s Word

Jesus was always clear that coming to him involves surrender. In Luke 14:25-33, when great crowds of people are following him, he warns them to “count the cost” before becoming his disciple (Luke 14:28). But as Jesus tells his disciples at the end of our passage for today, it will be worth it, both now and when we receive eternal life in the age to come. (Luke 18:29-30) This can be a challenge for our witness to others. We tend to underplay the cost when we tell others about Jesus. How can both our lives and our words witness to the good news that whatever we surrender in order to follow Jesus will be worth it?