

# Dr. Daniel K. Darko, Gospel of Luke, Session 28, The Question of Eternal Life (Luke 18:18-19:27) Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

## 1. Abstract of Darko, Luke, Session 28, The Question of Eternal Life (Luke 18:18-19:27), Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

**Dr. Daniel K. Darko's session 28 on Luke 18:18-19:27 explores Jesus' teachings on eternal life through encounters with a rich ruler, a blind beggar, and Zacchaeus. The lecture highlights the contrasting responses to Jesus' call, emphasizing that true discipleship may require letting go of earthly possessions and that faith can be found in unexpected individuals. Darko points out Luke's literary techniques in contrasting the ruler's unwillingness with the beggar's faith and Zacchaeus's transformation. Furthermore, the session includes Jesus' prediction of his suffering and resurrection, misunderstood by his disciples but recognized by the marginalized. Finally, Darko examines the parable of the ten minas, illustrating accountability and the consequences of stewardship in anticipation of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.**

**2. 20 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Darko, Luke, Session 28 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Gospels → Luke).**



**Darko\_Luke\_Sessio  
n28.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Darko, Luke, Session 28, The Question of Eternal Life (Luke 18:18-19:27)

#### Briefing Document: The Question of Eternal Life (Luke 18:18-19:27)

**Overview:** This briefing document summarizes Dr. Darko's analysis of Luke 18:18-19:27, a pivotal passage addressing the question of eternal life through the encounters of Jesus with a rich ruler, a blind beggar, and Zacchaeus. Dr. Darko highlights the contrasting responses to Jesus' call to discipleship, the unexpected faith found in the marginalized, and the foreshadowing of Jesus' impending suffering and resurrection.

#### Main Themes and Important Ideas:

##### 1. The Rich Ruler and the Impediment of Wealth:

- A wealthy ruler asks Jesus, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 18:18).
- Jesus challenges the ruler's ascription of "good" to him, stating, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone" (Luke 18:19). Dr. Darko suggests this protest might be because the ruler, despite the flattering title, ultimately will not follow Jesus' instructions.
- When the ruler claims to have kept the commandments from his youth, Jesus gives him a specific challenge: "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me" (Luke 18:22).
- The ruler becomes "very sad, for he was extremely rich" (Luke 18:23), highlighting how wealth can be an obstacle to fully following Jesus.
- Jesus observes, "How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:24-25).
- When the disciples question who then can be saved, Jesus responds, "What is impossible with man is possible with God" (Luke 18:27). This emphasizes God's grace in salvation.
- Dr. Darko emphasizes that while Jewish law didn't mandate selling all possessions, Jesus targets the ruler's "priority of possession" and his attitude towards the poor.

### 1. **The Disciples' Lack of Understanding and Peter's Question:**

- Peter points out the disciples' sacrifice: "See, we have left our homes and followed you" (Luke 18:28).
- Jesus assures them of future reward: "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time and in the age to come eternal life" (Luke 18:29-30). This highlights the reward for sacrificing for the kingdom.
- Jesus predicts his suffering, death, and resurrection in Jerusalem (Luke 18:31-33), but "they understood none of this saying was hidden from them, and they could not grasp what was said" (Luke 18:34).

### 1. **The Blind Beggar's Faith and Insight:**

- In contrast to the disciples' lack of understanding, a blind beggar near Jericho recognizes Jesus as the "Son of David" and cries out for mercy (Luke 18:38).
- Despite being rebuked, he persists, and Jesus heals him, saying, "Recover your sight; your faith has made you well" (Luke 18:42).
- The healed blind man "followed him, glorifying God, and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God" (Luke 18:43).
- Dr. Darko emphasizes the "Lukan irony" where the socially outcast blind man demonstrates faith and understanding that the disciples lacked.

### 1. **Zacchaeus: Repentance and Salvation for a Social Outcast:**

- Jesus encounters Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector and rich man, in Jericho (Luke 19:1-2). Tax collectors were "traitors" in Jewish society due to their collaboration with the Romans.
- Zacchaeus's desire to see Jesus leads him to climb a sycamore tree (Luke 19:3-4).
- Jesus calls him down, saying, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today" (Luke 19:5). This demonstrates Jesus seeking the marginalized.
- The crowd grumbles that Jesus is associating with a "sinner" (Luke 19:7).
- Zacchaeus's response demonstrates repentance and generosity: "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold" (Luke 19:8).

- Jesus declares, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:9-10).
- Dr. Darko contrasts Zacchaeus with the rich ruler, noting that while both were rulers and rich, their attitudes towards their wealth and their response to Jesus differed significantly. Zacchaeus, despite being a "social sinner," showed a "voluntary readiness" to give.

#### 1. **The Parable of the Ten Minas: Accountability and Judgment:**

- As Jesus neared Jerusalem, he told the parable of the ten minas (Luke 19:11-27) because the people "supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately" (Luke 19:11).
- The parable illustrates the accountability of those entrusted with resources and the consequences of faithfulness and unfaithfulness.
- The faithful servants are rewarded, while the unfaithful servant has what he has taken away.
- The parable also speaks of judgment for those who rejected the nobleman's (representing Jesus') reign. "But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me" (Luke 19:27).
- Dr. Darko highlights that the parable emphasizes the coming judgment and the importance of being a faithful steward of what God has entrusted.

#### **Key Quotes:**

- *"Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"* (Rich Ruler, Luke 18:18)
- *"Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone."* (Jesus, Luke 18:19)
- *"One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."* (Jesus, Luke 18:22)
- *"How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."* (Jesus, Luke 18:24-25)
- *"What is impossible with man is possible with God."* (Jesus, Luke 18:27)
- *"See, we have left our homes and followed you."* (Peter, Luke 18:28)

- *"Son of David, have mercy on me!"* (Blind Beggar, Luke 18:38)
- *"Recover your sight; your faith has made you well."* (Jesus, Luke 18:42)
- *"Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."* (Jesus, Luke 19:9-10)
- *"Everyone who has more will be given. More will be given. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."* (Jesus in the Parable of the Minas, Luke 19:26)

### **Conclusion:**

Dr. Darko's analysis of Luke 18:18-19:27 reveals crucial lessons about the nature of eternal life, the potential hindrance of wealth, the importance of genuine discipleship, and the surprising faith found in those often marginalized by society. The contrasting stories of the rich ruler, the blind beggar, and Zacchaeus illustrate different responses to Jesus' call and the diverse pathways to experiencing God's salvation. The subsequent parable of the ten minas serves as a reminder of accountability and the coming judgment. Ultimately, Dr. Darko emphasizes that salvation is available to all, and true followership requires a willingness to overcome obstacles, be they material possessions, social status, or a lack of understanding, and to embrace the seeking and saving work of Jesus.

## 4. Study Guide: Darko, Luke, Session 28, The Question of Eternal Life (Luke 18:18-19:27)

### Study Guide: Luke 18:18-19:27 - The Question of Eternal Life

#### Key Themes

- The nature of inheriting eternal life.
- The challenge of wealth and possessions in the context of discipleship.
- The contrast between outward piety and genuine faith.
- Jesus' predictions of his suffering and the disciples' lack of understanding.
- The faith and recognition of Jesus by marginalized individuals (the blind beggar).
- The encounter with Zacchaeus as an example of repentance and salvation.
- The parable of the ten minas and the importance of stewardship and accountability.
- The inclusive nature of God's kingdom and the reversal of societal expectations.

#### Quiz

1. What was the rich ruler's initial question to Jesus, and what was Jesus' immediate response regarding the title "good"?
2. According to Jesus, what specific action did the rich ruler need to take to gain treasure in heaven and become a follower? What was the ruler's reaction and why?
3. What did Peter point out to Jesus after the encounter with the rich ruler, and what was Jesus' assurance in response?
4. What did Jesus predict to the disciples about his impending arrival in Jerusalem, and what was their level of comprehension?
5. Describe the encounter between Jesus and the blind man near Jericho. What did the blind man call Jesus, and what was the outcome of their meeting?
6. What was Zacchaeus' profession and social standing? What actions did he take to see Jesus, and what was Jesus' response to him?

7. What did Zacchaeus offer to do after Jesus declared that salvation had come to his house? How did this contrast with the rich ruler?
8. Briefly summarize the parable of the ten minas. What are the key lessons Jesus intended to convey through this parable in the context of his approaching Jerusalem?
9. Identify two contrasting characters from this passage (Luke 18:18-19:27) and briefly explain how their responses to Jesus illustrate key themes of the lecture.
10. What does Dr. Darko suggest about the seemingly paradoxical inclusion of marginalized individuals and the challenges faced by the wealthy in the kingdom of God, based on these passages?

### **Quiz Answer Key**

1. The rich ruler asked Jesus, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus responded by questioning why he called him good, stating that no one is good except God alone.
2. Jesus told the rich ruler to sell all that he had, distribute it to the poor, gain treasure in heaven, and then come and follow him. The ruler became very sad because he was extremely rich and unwilling to part with his possessions.
3. Peter stated, "See, we have left our homes and followed you." Jesus assured them that anyone who has left house, wife, brothers, parents, or children for the sake of the kingdom will receive many times more in this time and eternal life in the age to come.
4. Jesus predicted that he would go to Jerusalem, be delivered to the Gentiles, mocked, shamefully treated, spit upon, flogged, and killed, but would rise on the third day. The disciples understood none of this; the meaning was hidden from them and they could not grasp it.
5. A blind man sitting by the roadside near Jericho called out, "Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me!" Despite being rebuked, he persisted, and Jesus healed his blindness, leading him to follow Jesus and glorify God.
6. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector, a profession that held low social status as tax collectors were seen as traitors. Because he was short and the crowd was large, he climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus, who then called him by name and declared that he must stay at Zacchaeus' house that day.

7. Zacchaeus offered to give half of his goods to the poor and restore fourfold to anyone he had defrauded. This contrasts with the rich ruler who was unwilling to give up any of his possessions despite his outward piety.
8. The parable involves a nobleman giving ten minas to ten servants and instructing them to do business until his return as king. Upon his return, he rewards the faithful servants who increased their minas and punishes the unfaithful one who did nothing out of fear. The parable highlights accountability, stewardship, and the judgment that will follow Jesus' coming.
9. The rich ruler and the blind beggar offer a stark contrast. The rich ruler, despite his apparent piety, was unwilling to prioritize discipleship over his wealth, while the marginalized blind beggar readily recognized Jesus and followed him after receiving sight, demonstrating genuine faith. Similarly, the rich ruler's sadness contrasts with Zacchaeus' joyful reception of Jesus and immediate willingness to give.
10. Dr. Darko suggests that Luke highlights how those marginalized by society often demonstrate greater faith and understanding of Jesus than those who are outwardly successful or religious. He emphasizes that wealth can be a significant obstacle to discipleship if possessions are prioritized over following Jesus, while salvation is open to all, even those considered social outcasts, through genuine repentance and faith.



## Essay Format Questions

1. Analyze the encounter between Jesus and the rich ruler in Luke 18:18-30. What does this passage reveal about the obstacles that wealth can present to inheriting eternal life and the nature of true discipleship?
2. Compare and contrast the encounters of Jesus with the blind beggar (Luke 18:35-43) and Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10). How do these narratives illustrate Luke's emphasis on the inclusion of marginalized individuals in God's kingdom?
3. Discuss the significance of Jesus' prediction of his suffering and resurrection (Luke 18:31-34) in the context of the surrounding narratives. Why do you think the disciples failed to understand his words, and how does this contrast with the faith of the blind man?
4. Examine the parable of the ten minas (Luke 19:11-27). What are the key principles of stewardship and accountability that Jesus is teaching in this parable, and how does it relate to the themes presented in the preceding encounters?
5. Considering the entirety of Luke 18:18-19:27, what does this section of the Gospel of Luke teach about the requirements for and the nature of salvation? Support your answer with specific examples and analysis from the text.

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Eternal Life:** Life in God's presence and kingdom, both now and in the age to come; the ultimate inheritance for believers.
- **Ruler (ἄρχων - archōn):** In this context, refers to a person in a position of authority or leadership, possibly a member of the Sanhedrin or a local official.
- **Commandments:** Refers to the moral laws given by God to Moses, emphasizing ethical behavior and relationship with God and neighbor.
- **Kingdom of God:** God's reign and rule, both present in the ministry of Jesus and future in its fullness; a sphere of spiritual life and divine authority.
- **Son of Man:** A title Jesus frequently used for himself, often carrying messianic connotations and alluding to his divine and human nature as well as his future glory and suffering.
- **Son of David:** A messianic title recognizing Jesus as the descendant of King David, fulfilling Old Testament prophecies of the coming Messiah.
- **Mercy (ἔλεος - eleos):** Compassion and forgiveness shown, especially by God; the blind man's plea highlights his dependence on divine grace.
- **Faith (πίστις - pistis):** Trust and belief in God and in Jesus Christ, often demonstrated through action and reliance on God's power.
- **Salvation (σωτηρία - sōtēria):** Deliverance from sin, its consequences, and spiritual death; the experience of being made whole and right with God.
- **Tax Collector (τελώνης - telōnēs):** Individuals who collected taxes on behalf of the Roman government, often despised by Jews for their collaboration and perceived corruption.
- **Stewardship:** The responsibility of managing and caring for resources entrusted to one by another, in this context, referring to how people use what God has given them.
- **Parable:** A short story used by Jesus to teach a spiritual lesson or truth, often using everyday scenarios to illustrate deeper meanings.
- **Mina (μνᾶ - mna):** A unit of currency in the ancient world, used in the parable to represent resources or opportunities entrusted to individuals.

## 5. FAQs on Darko, Luke, Session 28, The Question of Eternal Life (Luke 18:18-19:27), Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

### Frequently Asked Questions: The Question of Eternal Life in Luke 18-19

**1. What question does the rich ruler pose to Jesus, and how does Jesus initially respond?** The rich ruler asks Jesus, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus initially responds by questioning the ruler's ascription of "good" to him, stating, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone." He then redirects the ruler to the commandments.

**2. What specific commandments does Jesus mention to the rich ruler, and what is the ruler's claim regarding them?** Jesus mentions the commandments: "Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not bear false witness, honor your father and mother." The rich ruler claims to have kept all these commandments since his youth, highlighting his piety and adherence to Jewish law.

**3. What is the single thing that Jesus tells the rich ruler he still lacks, and what is the ruler's reaction?** Jesus tells the rich ruler, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." Upon hearing this, the ruler became very sad because he was extremely rich, indicating that his wealth was a significant obstacle.

**4. Following the encounter with the rich ruler, what does Jesus say about the difficulty of the wealthy entering the kingdom of God, and what is the disciples' reaction?** Jesus states, "How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard this exclaimed, "Then who can be saved?" to which Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God." Peter then points out that they have left their homes to follow Jesus, seeking reassurance of their reward.

**5. How does the story of the blind beggar near Jericho contrast with the encounter with the rich ruler?** The blind beggar, unlike the rich ruler and even the disciples who didn't understand Jesus' predictions of his suffering, immediately recognizes Jesus as the "Son of David" and persistently cries out for mercy. His faith is validated by receiving his sight and following Jesus, glorifying God. This contrasts sharply with the rich ruler's sadness and unwillingness to follow Jesus' command and the disciples' lack of comprehension. The blind beggar, a social outcast, demonstrates a strong and effective faith that the socially prominent ruler lacked.

**6. How does the encounter with Zacchaeus in Jericho further illustrate Jesus' interactions with the socially marginalized?** Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector and therefore a social outcast and considered a sinner, actively seeks to see Jesus. When Jesus calls him by name and invites himself to Zacchaeus's house, Zacchaeus joyfully receives him and voluntarily offers to give half of his possessions to the poor and make fourfold restitution to anyone he has defrauded. Jesus declares that salvation has come to his house, recognizing him as a "son of Abraham" and stating that the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost. This highlights Jesus' willingness to engage with and bring salvation to those marginalized by society, in stark contrast to the rich ruler's reluctance.

**7. What are some key differences highlighted between the rich ruler and Zacchaeus in their responses to Jesus?** While both the rich ruler and Zacchaeus were wealthy rulers, their responses to Jesus differed significantly. The rich ruler, despite his piety, was unwilling to part with his wealth to follow Jesus and went away sad. Zacchaeus, though a social sinner, willingly offered to redistribute his wealth and make restitution, leading to the declaration of salvation for his household. The rich ruler's piety seemed to be an obstacle tied to his possessions, while Zacchaeus's encounter led to immediate and tangible actions demonstrating a changed heart. The rich ruler remained unnamed, while Zacchaeus is named multiple times, perhaps emphasizing his significance in Luke's narrative.

**8. What is the main point of the parable of the ten minas that Jesus tells as he approaches Jerusalem?** The parable of the ten minas, told because the people supposed the kingdom of God was to appear immediately, emphasizes the themes of accountability, stewardship, and judgment. It illustrates that God entrusts resources to people and expects them to be used faithfully until his return. Those who are faithful in their stewardship will be rewarded, while those who are unproductive due to fear or a negative perception of their master will face consequences, losing even what they were given. The parable underscores that salvation is present, but the Son of Man will also come in judgment, and faithfulness in the present has implications for the future.