

# Gathering Guide

for Communities and Friends

*5 Questions that Matter: What Must I Do to be Saved? August 25 2019*

## The Big Idea

In much of our theological teachings and discussions we rightly focus on what God, through Jesus Christ, has done for us. Through the grace of God and the death and resurrection of Jesus we are forgiven, redeemed, justified, sanctified and eventually glorified. In the midst of all of those big theological words, however, we are reminded in Scripture that there is a response required on our part, even though we absolutely lean totally on what Christ has done for us. Eternal life is God's gift to us and for us. We receive it by sincerely believing in

## Where we are in the Bible

In Luke 18:18-27 Jesus is posed a question that was typical for a disciple of that day to ask of his teacher – "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" This man appears to be genuine in his desire to share in the life of the Kingdom of God, and yet unwilling to pay the price to secure that life. This story reminds us of our need to receive the gift of eternal life and to receive God's grace, but also we are reminded again that it is only by the power of God that anyone is saved. As one commentator has stated, this story "emphasizes both the responsibility and the helplessness of mankind."

## Other scriptures to consider

Luke 10:25-37

John 3:3-15

Acts 2:36-41

Acts 16:25-34

Romans 6:1-4

## Finding a bit of ourselves

- Did you feel a sincere sorrow for sin when you first came to Christ? Can you describe what it felt like? Did it lead to a genuine commitment to forsake sin? How long was it before you noticed a change in your pattern of life?
- Have you been baptized? When? If you were baptized as a believer, what was the effect of the baptism on your Christian life (if any)? If you were baptized as an infant, what affect did the knowledge of the baptism have in your own thinking when you eventually learned that you had been baptized as an infant?

## Where do we go from here?

- Why does Jesus tell this man to sell all his possessions? Is this something Jesus requires of everyone? If not, why single this man out?
- How are we to generalize about "selling all our possessions"? What application does this have to us? In Luke 18:27 we are reminded that we are completely helpless to save ourselves, or anyone else for that matter. How does this impact your attitude and actions toward your own personal salvation? What about the salvation of family and friends who are dear to you?
- How does Romans 6:1-4 form your view on the meaning of baptism? What would you say to a new Christian who is asking why they should be baptized?
- Have you come to trust in Christ personally, or are you still at the point of intellectual knowledge and emotional approval of the facts of salvation without having personally put your trust in Christ? If you have not put your trust in Christ yet, what do you think it is that is making you hesitate?



## Prayer focus

We are reminded in this passage from Luke 18 that "What is impossible with men is possible with God". Most of us probably know someone who seems so far from God that salvation appears almost impossible. Or maybe you are hanging on to something that has kept you from full faith in Jesus. This week let's pray for the impossible! Pray especially for your family, neighbors, and friends who are not saved. Believe and trust God for the impossible!

