



What we see in this passage is that this Jewish “ruler” is successful, influential, and highly moral... but he is as lost as Herod, Philip, and Herod the Tetrarch.

He may rule others but he cannot even rule himself. He needs a better ruler.

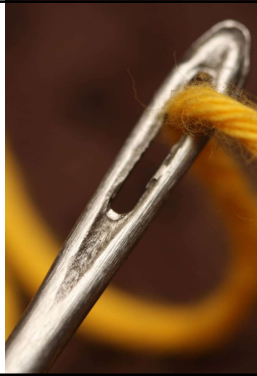
TIM KELLER

“The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.”

Recognition of Sin:

We need God to bring conviction of sin. It is impossible for us to realize how deeply sinful and desperately lost we really are apart from Christ.

LUKE 18:18-23



“Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.”

LUKE 18:19

God’s goodness is exclusively His own.

Christianity is not about proving our goodness but God’s.

God is good to show us where we lack goodness.

“One thing you still lack...” Luke 18:22

God is good to require each of us to choose His goodness over whatever we worship in His place.

“No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

LUKE 16:13

Our prayer has to be: Help me see my sin.

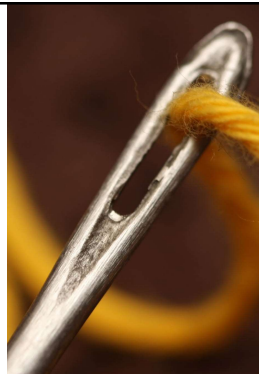
“Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!”

PSALM 139:23-24

Repentance from sin:

We need God to bring repentance from sin. It is impossible for us to leave our addiction to sin apart from the grace of God.

LUKE 18:24-27



“But He said, ‘What is impossible with man is possible with God.’”

LUKE 18:27

The sign of God’s favor was the gift of repentance not the gift of riches.



“I am almost in its power now. I could not give it up, and if you tried to take it I should go mad.”

FRODO, RETURN OF THE KING

Deep sorrow can be a starting point for change. It's a revelation that can lead to repentance.

"For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death." 2 Corinthians 7:10

Repentance is a gift of God.

"Jesus, seeing that he had become sad said, '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)

David Garland: "By pointing beyond any form of moral goodness to God himself, Jesus reprises the point of the parable of the Pharisee and tax collector: entrance into the reign of God only comes via the miracle of God's grace. It cannot be earned; it can only be accepted with humility and faith."

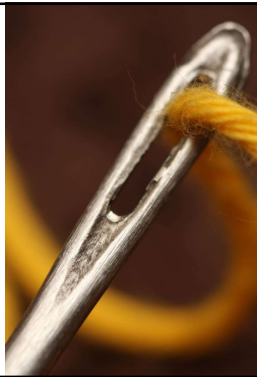
Tom Schreiner: "Human beings on their own cannot make a decision for the kingdom, but the grace of God secures the response needed."

Our prayer has to be: Help me flee my sin.

Restitution for sin and Restoration from sin:

Even if we repent, we cannot undo the damage that we have done. We need a rich ruler to save us from our poverty.

LUKE 18:28-30



“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”

2 CORINTHIANS 8:9

“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, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life.”

LUKE 18:29-30

“Already, even in the present time, this new age breaks into our sad old world. Within the life of Christian fellowship there are new homes, new families, new possibilities that open up for those who leave behind the old ways. The church is called in every age to be that sort of community, a living example of the age to come. In that sort of selfless and trusting common life, church members themselves, and the world around, can glimpse what God’s new world is like, and learn to live that way more and more.”

TOM WRIGHT

Our prayer has to be: Help me be free from all sin.
