Bible Study 74

April 26th, 2023

Luke’s Gospel (continued)

Chapter 18. v.18

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”—it is the continuing theme of the later part of Luke’s gospel. Jesus’ answer is that the young man sells all that he has and follow him. We read this time after time in Luke. It is a dualism: ‘The Kingdom’ is made up of one thing and it is not wealth, money, riches, or power. Salvation is a choice.

“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle that for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. V.25”

One of the gates to enter the walled city of Jerusalem was called the ‘Needle’ because it was so narrow and low. Some scholars argue that Jesus was referring to this gate in this verse. For loaded camels, carrying goods into the market of the city, they first had to unload to get through the gate.” Is this what Jesus meant that the rich had to get rid of their wealth to enter heaven?

Maybe he actually meant a real needle?

We have plenty of examples of this such as Francis of Assisi; Elizabeth of Hungary….

Peter in verse28, is reminded of the sacrifice that it takes to follow Jesus. Is Luke trying to encourage his Christians not to lose heart?

Note in verse31 Jesus predicts that he will be turned over to the ‘Gentiles’ unlike Matthew’s Gospel where Jesus is turned over to the Jews.

The disciples do not understand any of this Luke says.

Now the Gospel jumps…….and suddenly Jesus is not in Jerusalem but rather in Jericho, far to the East. Jesus is approaching Jericho and the Blind man is begging. Not when told it is “Jesus of Nazareth” the Blind Man shouts: “Jesus Son of David, have mercy on me.”

What is unusual about this?

Why Son of David?

Why would he call Jesus ‘Son of David ‘unless he had identified him as the Messiah?

The story also appears in Mark and Matthew.

Jesus asks the man what he can do for him. He heals him so that he can see and tells him that his faith has saved him.

The Blind man, who can now see, follows Jesus.

What is Luke’s purpose in telling the story?

Is Luke really asking the Early Christians to see with the eyes of faith? As the years get further from the life of Jesus have some now got doubts? Do they need this story as a refresher?

Is it the case that some in the face of persecution are ‘blind’ to the power of Jesus as savior and Messiah?

Read Chapter 18 & 19