

Buying Heaven: The Search for a Spiritual Shortcut
Luke 18:18-30

The rabbis in the 1st century constantly wrestled with one core question: Could the entire will of God be _____ down to one foundational principle or definitive ____? Jesus was repeatedly asked some form of that often-contemplated question.

The question of this ruler in Luke 18:18 indicates that he was looking for a single ____, performed in one moment in time, that could guarantee for ____ his ultimate acquisition of eternal life. Jesus first pointed the man back to the Law of Moses. The man's answer is essentially, "I've done my best and I sense it _____." Though he was either a member of the Sanhedrin or at least a local synagogue ruler and fabulously rich, he was wise enough to know that though he had done his best, he was on the _____ of eternal life _____.

He did the wise thing _____. Jesus gave him the answer he needed to hear...the answer we all need to hear: "Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." First, turn your back on anything that _____ you from making God and His will your _____. What would Jesus tell you that you need to _____ to have a right relationship with God?

Then, Jesus added, "Come, follow me." So, there is really ____ once-and-for-all act we can do to buy eternal life. There is that "once-and-for-all" moment when we _____ the name of the Lord to be saved. But if that once-and-for-all moment isn't followed by coming and _____, then the "calling on the name of the Lord" is only _____.

Jesus wasn't saying we _____ our salvation by our follow through. His point was that the follow through _____ that our "I do" to Jesus was not a _____.

A.W. Tozer said, "The modern concept of 'accepting Christ' without any intention of following Him has created a generation of spiritual _____. True faith alters the course of a life, and it is the subsequent following that bears witness to the _____ of the initial _____."