

## Jesus' Words Regarding Earthly Riches and Salvation

### Jesus Responds To Questions About Earning His Kingdom

Matthew 19: 16-23

In verse 16 a young man asks Jesus, "Good master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" Jesus responds in verse 17, "Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life(eternal), keep the commandments." In verse 18 the young man then asks Jesus, "Which?". Jesus responds, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself?"

The young man is looking for specific actions HE can take to earn eternal life. Jesus responds by listing "good things" we can do to please him while on Earth. We all have the assurance of eternal life as believers. Since we do, why is it important for us to still keep the commandments?

Our actions set us apart. Non believers will be watching us. It pleases Him!

While many, who are not follow Christ choose to live decent lives, ours, is a blessed commandment, to please our Savior!

Further, while the commandments Jesus encouraged the young boy to follow seem obvious, don't kill, don't commit adultery...Is it really possible for us to "love our neighbor as ourself?" What specific actions can we take to demonstrate Christian love to our neighbors?

Reach out to them and try to meet their needs. Reach out to them in times of strife. Invite them to church. Tell them what Jesus has done for us.

What shouldn't we do. Be condescending or superior toward them, their lives or family. ?Turn our backs to their need for salvation. (failure to witness).

What other things can you suggest we do?

Let's all try to reach out to a neighbor in the coming days.

### When Good Works Aren't Enough

In verse 20 the young man responds he has kept these from his youth and asks, "what lack I yet?" In verse 21 Jesus responds, "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me."

In verse 21 Jesus advises the young man that to be "perfect" he will need to sell everything and give all his riches to the poor and to come and follow him. The young man was being given the opportunity to walk with Jesus on Earth and turned this down in order to keep his possessions(verse 22). How different are we when we do not heed his calling for our lives? What do you think Jesus' meaning for Modern Christians is, here?

When we accept his eternal salvation, we agree to make him the guiding force in our lives. While Jesus may not ask us to give up everything we have, he may ask us to give up what we desire most. Monetary pursuits, pursuit of success, personal sacrifice of time.

Was there a time when you gave up a personal goal, something you desired or, made a personal sacrifice, in order to better serve God?

#### Jesus words regarding Earthly riches and Attaining Heaven Verse 23-29

Jesus turned to the disciples and says, "Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God."

Why are "earthly possessions" so hard to give up? (greed, fear of the unknown(the future), weak faith, concern for others(family).

Other reasons you can cite.

Why is it important for Christians to be able to give up these things when Jesus asks, or, is he asking too much of modern Christians?"

What is our reward if we choose to follow? Eternal life. Peace of mind. Peace of Heart. Knowledge we are pleasing Him.

In verse 25 the disciples were amazed by his words and asked, "Who then can be saved?"

Jesus responds in verse 26, "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."

What conclusion do you draw from this verse?

Is Jesus saying he can save the "rich"? How can we know how a "rich man" is saved? A poor man?

#### The Disciples Ask Jesus About Their Rewards

In verse 27, Peter responds, "Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?"

The disciples had left there "Earthly Lives" behind to follow Jesus. Though Jesus was beginning to teach the disciples how to witness for him, it is interesting he uses his teachings to answer the natural questions or doubts they may have had. His answer in verse 28 answers their concerns directly and verse 29, gives guidance to us regarding our lives. "And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life."

How do you think this verse applies to today's Christian?

Mission trips, witnessing, church outreach. ? Others?

In what ways are we to "sacrifice" today? Time, money, listening for his calling and direction for our lives when we pray.