

Placing the Kingdom above Earthly Pursuits

Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30

Jesus Counsels the Rich Young Ruler

¹⁶ Now behold, ^{MK} as He was going out on the road, a ^{LK} certain ruler ^{MK} came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what (^{MT} good thing) shall I do that I may have eternal life?" ¹⁷ So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, *that is*, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." ¹⁸ He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' (^{MK} 'Do not defraud') 'Honor your father and *your* mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" ²⁰ The young man answered and said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" ²¹ ^{LK} So when Jesus heard these things, He ^{MK} looked at Him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you still lack: Go your way, ^{MT} If you want to be perfect, sell whatever you have and give to the poor; and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." ²² But when the young man heard that saying, ^{MK} he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, ^{LK} for he was very rich and ^{MK} had great possessions.

Dangers of Wealth and Rewards of the Kingdom

²³ ^{LK} And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He ^{MK} looked around and said to His disciples, ^{MT} "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ^{MK} And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴ ^{MT} And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁵ When His disciples heard *it*, they were greatly astonished, ^{MK} saying among themselves, "Who then can be saved?" ²⁶ ^{MT} But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." ²⁷ Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" ²⁸ So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, ^{MK} and the gospel's ^{LK} and for the sake of the kingdom of God shall receive a hundredfold now in this present time - houses, and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions - and in the age to come, inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many *who are* first will be last, and the last first.

Questions:

1. Describe the man who came to Jesus - what was impressive about his character and position in society? What did the way he first approached Jesus reveal about him?
2. What question did he ask Jesus? How is the wording of Matthew different than Mark and Luke's wording: "What shall I do that I may have eternal life?" (Note the parenthesis above) What was his concept of how to obtain eternal life?
3. Why did Jesus first ask why the man called Him "good" and adding "No one is good but One, that is, God"? Was the young ruler really meaning to say Jesus was good in the true sense?
4. What did Jesus tell him was the way to enter into life? Which of the commandments did Jesus name for him? What was the young man's response?
5. Why do you think the young man think he might still lack something? What one thing did Jesus point out that still was lacking in his commitment to God? Why did this make him so sorrowful?
6. As this wealthy young man went away sorrowful, how did Jesus use this as a lesson with the disciples? Why is it hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven? Does this mean a rich person cannot be saved?
7. Why were the disciples astonished? What does this reveal about their previous thinking about riches?
8. How does Jesus patiently clarify His meaning about why it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God? What do you think Jesus meant by the figure of the camel and the needle's eye?
9. How did this new information about the difficulty of the rich being saved leave the disciples feeling? vs 25 How did Jesus then encourage them?
10. What question did Peter ask about their future reward? What sacrifices had they made in order to follow Jesus?
11. Jesus gives them a glimpse of their important places on thrones in the "regeneration" (v 28) and in the "age to come" (v 30) for everyone who gives up much to follow Jesus, how will the blessings make up for the sacrifices?
12. What is the meaning of the final saying "Many who are first will be last, and the last first"?