

GIVE

UNLEASHING GOD TO BLESS YOU

PART 2

**Camels, Needles,
Wealth & Heaven**

THE BIBLE AND WEALTH

500 verses on faith/prayer
2,350 verses on wealth/money

**Our attitude toward wealth determines
the direction of our worship.**

MONEY AND ME

As I learn to use the gold for the
glory of God, I will tap the flow of
God's unleashed favor to me.

MATTHEW 19:16-26

A man came to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" Jesus replied, "Why do you ask about what is good? Only One is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments."

"Which ones?" he inquired.

Jesus said, "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"

MATTHEW 19:16-26

*"All these I have kept," he said. "What do I still lack?"
Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your
possessions and give to the poor, and you will have
treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."*

*When the young man heard this, he went away sad,
because he had great wealth.*

*So Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it's
hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.*

MATTHEW 19:16-26

*"Again, 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."*

*The disciples were greatly astonished and asked, "Who
then can be saved?" Jesus said, "With man this is
impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

WHAT WE KNOW

- ▶ **The man is young** (v. 20)
- ▶ **The man is rich** (v. 22)
- ▶ **The man has authority** (Luke 18:18)

HE IS THE RICH YOUNG RULER!

SOMETHING IS STILL MISSING

He believed **possessions and position**
would produce earthly satisfaction.

He assumed **religious piety** would give
him eternal security.

SOMETHING IS STILL MISSING

He is empty, but too proud to change.

The pain of staying the same has not exceeded the pain of change.



"Jesus looked at him and loved him."

MARK 10:21

WHY STATE THE OBVIOUS?

Jesus saw how good his heart was, and how close he was to salvation.

But he was trusting God plus trusting money plus trusting being good for salvation.

Salvation through Christ is by faith plus nothing.

FAITH:

Forsaking All, I Trust Him

INTERPRETATION #1

"Eye of the Needle" refers to a gate in ancient Jerusalem.

Spiritual Lesson: a camel could slip through the needle's eye, but only by stripping off its baggage.

INTERPRETATION #2

"Camel" is the result of a textual error.

Kamelos, "camel" should be kamilos, "cable" or "rope."


INTERPRETATION #3

Jesus was using hyperbole (exaggeration for effect) and everyone knew it.

Jesus meant this to bother us: "**Who then can be saved?**" (v. 25)



Wealth itself isn't the problem. It is
our **improper dependence** on it!



We cannot enter the life of God
through **human dependencies**—either
money or effort.



*"Do not love the world or anything that
belongs to the world. If you love the world,
you cannot love the Father."*

1 JOHN 2:15



Jesus' concern isn't what we possess,
but **what possesses us.**

The real issue here is not wealth;
it is trust.

THE FLAW IN THE LAW

*"What good thing **must I do** to get eternal life?"*

MATTHEW 19:16

THE FLAW IN THE LAW

If we do well at keeping the measurable areas of the law, yet fail at the unmeasurable ones, we have failed at keeping God's law.

"When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth."

MATTHEW 19:22

BREAKING THE 10TH COMMANDMENT

"Sell your possessions and give to the poor."

MATTHEW 19:21

The rich, young ruler's works and wealth had become his god. The refusal to give it up exposed the antithesis of trust: coveting.

THE ANTIDOTE TO COVETING

Coveting is wanting something apart from God's provision.

Surrender is **trusting God to provide** what we need for abundant living.

"How do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your soul in the process? Is anything worth more than your soul?"

MARK 8:36-37

Forsaking All, I Trust Him



10/18 KINGDOM BUILDERS OFFERING

"And give to the poor."

- ▶ PCC Outreach to Immigrant Youth
- ▶ Children's Feeding Initiative
- ▶ Building Refresh of Student's Wing

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