

A Study of the Book of Matthew: Chapter 19 v. 16-30

After praying for the children, Jesus is approached by a wealthy man that asks what he must do to have eternal life. (v. 16-22)

- How does the rich man refer to Jesus when he first meets Him in verse 16?
_____ (v. 16)
 - Why would he refer to Jesus in this way? _____
 - In verse 17 Jesus explains what it truly means for one to be “good”, and acknowledges that the only person that is “good” (free of Sin) is God!
- What instruction does Jesus give the man to receive eternal life? _____
 - What does it mean for someone to “keep” the commandments?
_____ (v. 17)
 - Keep does not mean follow them one time. Jesus is instructing the man that he shouldn't just follow the commandments for a short time, but it should be a constant in his life.
- What commandments does Jesus ask the young man to keep?
_____ (v.18-19)
 - Is Jesus trying to tell the young man these are the only commandments to follow? What point is he trying to get across to him here? _____
 - Jesus is pointing out that ALL of the Law is to be followed. How would that differ from the way the commandments were viewed during this time?

- How does the young man respond to Jesus instruction? _____
(v. 20)
 - Despite Jesus explaining that there is only One who is “good”, the young man still does not understand what he is lacking.
- What final instruction does Jesus give him in order to be “perfect”?
_____ (v. 21-22)
 - This story is also found in Mark Chapter 10. How does Jesus respond to the young man in Mark's account in verse 21? _____
 - Jesus knew the whole time what was holding the man back from having eternal life. Despite all the “good” the young man had done, he hadn't made the decision to forsake Earthly things and put God first in his life. Even knowing he would have an eternal reward, the young man put the things of the Earth first.

After the young man walks away, Jesus explains that it will be difficult for the rich to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. (v. 23-30).

- Why would it be difficult for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?

 - Jesus isn't saying that being rich is a sin. However, Jesus is acknowledging that their riches can be a hindrance that stops them from putting God first in their lives.

- How could a camel pass through the eye of a needle? _____
 - Jesus offers the answer in verse 26. The ONLY way to eternal life is through Christ. Our sins, riches, lifestyles and wants will keep us from eternal life if we choose to pursue them instead of Christ.
 - What Jesus is telling the Disciples here is also contrary to what the people of the time believed. Many Jews believed that being financially well off meant you were in good favor with God, and being poor was a “punishment”. Jesus is not only changing the disciples view from a heavenly perspective, but also from an earthly perspective.
- What kind of reward does Jesus tell Peter and the disciples they will receive for following Him? _____ (v. 28-30)
 - It is important to recognize here that Jesus does not promise earthly wealth to the disciples, but does promise reward that is GREATER than what they could receive on Earth.
 - If we want to truly seek Christ and receive our reward from Him, we have to make sure we are viewing things from His perspective. Heavenly reward must trump earthly reward, and we must keep our eyes on our ultimate prize that is Eternal Life!
- What is Jesus trying to say in his closing statement in verse 30? _____
 - Jesus is acknowledging that much like the rich young ruler, not everyone will be willing to accept this trade off. There are those who are rich by the world’s standards that will miss out entirely on their heavenly reward.