

The Eye of a Needle
Matthew 19:23-30

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

I. Wealth Can Be a Temporal _____:

- a. ***Truly I say to you*** = pay attention because this is really TRUE!
- b. ***it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven***
 - i. Wealth can be a Spiritual Insulation (cf. Prov. 30:7-9; Luke 4:18; 1 Cor. 1:26-28)
 - ii. The Love of Money (Matt. 6:21, 24-25; 7:14; Mark 4:18-19; 10:24; 13:22 Luke 12:18-21; 1 Tim. 6:9-10)
- c. ***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***
 - i. Many have tried and failed to excuse away the plain meaning of this Jewish Idiom = "something is impossible"
- d. ***Then who can be saved?***
 - i. The Jews (like many today) believed that wealth always signaled God's favor (cf. Deut. 27; 28:1-14; Ps. 73; 128; Job; Jer. 12:1-4)
 - ii. Therefore, they were confused hearing that the Rich Young Ruler couldn't be saved (cf. Pharisees in Matt. 5:20)
- e. ***With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.***
 - i. It is impossible for anyone to be saved by their own will.
 - ii. Salvation belongs to God Alone! (cf. John 1:12-13; Rom. 3:9-20; Gal. 3:10-13; Phil. 3:4-9; Eph. 2:8-9)

II. Wealth Can Be an Eternal _____:

- a. ***we have left everything and followed You*** (cf. Matt. 4:18-22; 9:9; 16:25)
- b. ***what then will there be for us?***
 - i. Peter's question was confused but sincere and relevant
- c. Jesus compassionately gave His disciples 2 Promises:
 - i. A Specific Promise to the Disciples
 1. ***shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel***
 2. ***regeneration = palingenesia*** (παλιγγενεσία) = "rebirth, new age, renewal" 'an era involving the renewal of the world (with special reference to the time of the Messiah)'"
 3. This is when ***the Son of Man*** returns after the Rapture of the Church and the judgment of the Tribulation, to establish His Millennial Kingdom (cf. Dan. 7:13-14; Ps. 2:2, 8-9; Isa. 2:2-4; 4:2-6; 11:1-11; 32:16-18; 35:1-2; 65:17-25; 66:22; Acts 3:21; 1 Cor. 6:2; 2 Pet 3:10-13; Rev. 3:21; 20:1-15; 21-22)
 - a. Mathias replaces Judas (cf. Acts 1:21-26)
 - ii. A General Promise to All Believers
 1. ***Eternal = will inherit eternal life*** (cf. John 3:16; Rom. 10)
 - a. Warning = ³⁰ ***But many who are first will be last; and the last, first.***
 2. ***Temporal = everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much*** = The Church!!!
 - a. We are called upon to fulfill Jesus' Promise