

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 plane 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