

THE RICH YOUNG MAN

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



BIBLE VERSE

COMMITTING TO MEMORY

Luke 18:22

You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.



STORY LESSON

BIBLE STORY

A rich young man came to Jesus and asked him a question of profound significance. He wanted to know **how to inherit eternal life**. Not a bad question. What he was really asking was:

'how do I get the good things in life that I cannot buy with my money...I've got fame and fortune figured out, but how do I figure out this religious, what-to-do-with-my-soul thing?'

Great question, bad motive. Jesus saw right into this young man's depraved heart. Jesus goes on to plague him with some great thoughts that end up frustrating this man's worldview.

"Why do you call me good?" (Luke 18:19).

"Keep the commandments..." (Luke 18:20).

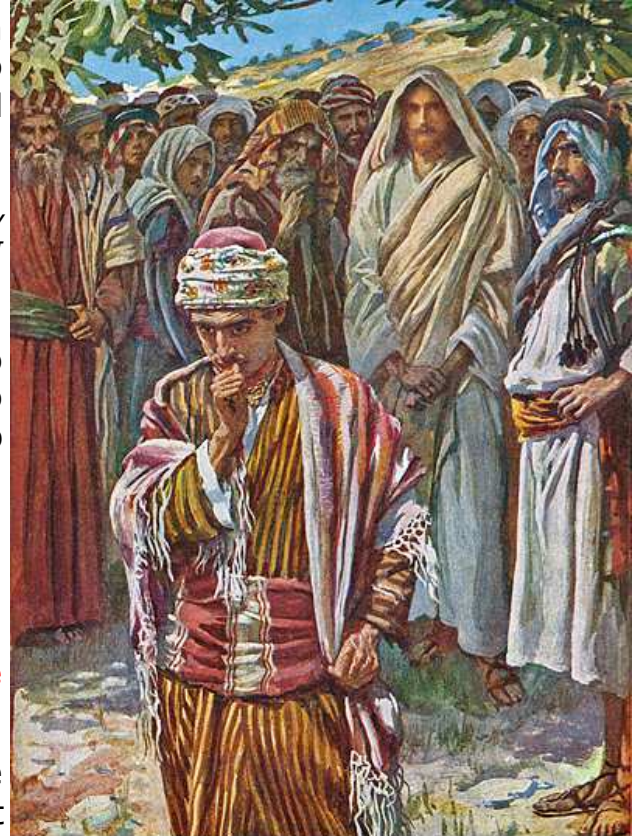
"Sell everything... give to the poor... [inherit] treasure in heaven... then follow me" (Luke 18:22).

This did not sit well with the rich young ruler for he had a great many earthly treasures that he was not willing to give up. Jesus goes on to say that it is

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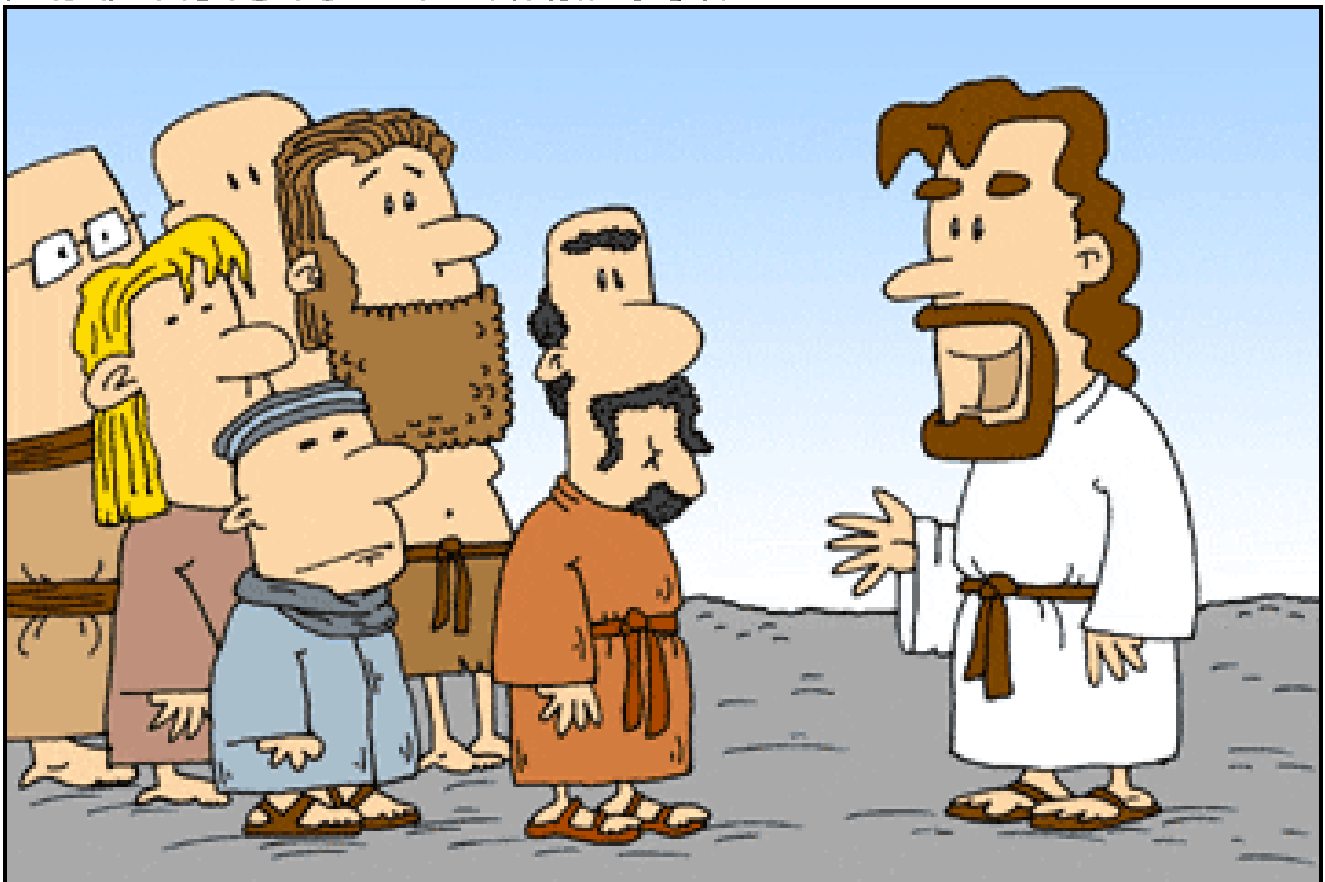


The Rich Young Man by Harold Copping

difficult for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Not impossible, but difficult. This is because to be rich in money does not usually translate to being rich in heaven. If you have a habit of getting all you can, can all you get, then sitting on the can, you're probably not going to give away your "can." On the other hand, if you have a habit of giving away what you get (not irresponsibly mind you, but wisely and sacrificially), then usually you do not have a "can" to sit on because you gave it away to those who needed it.

When the people heard Jesus say this, they got nervous and wondered aloud, "who then can be saved" (Luke 18:26). You see, they bought into the lie that you are "in" or are "it" if you have money and great wealth because God has obviously blessed you and you are heaven-bound. Not so, Jesus says. **"What is impossible with men is possible with God"** (Luke 18:27).

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**THE WINNER OF "THE DISCIPLE" WILL GET TO
GIVE UP ALL EARTHLY POSSESSIONS AND
FOLLOW ME THROUGH ALL LEVELS OF
HARDSHIPS**



LIFE APPLICATION

MAKING IT REAL

Seeing Hearts

Jesus is a master teacher; he tends not to mince words. Maybe because he is divine that he can see into hearts and know intentions, but I believe we as Jesus' disciples can see into hearts as well. When we are discipling others and living in the kingdom of God, I believe that the Holy Spirit reveals things to our hearts that show the true nature of our hearts as well as those of others. Not for the purpose of gossip or a personal crusade of justice, but one of grace and mercy and truth. Perhaps the model of Jesus going after heart stuff is the way we should pattern our interaction with others as well. All too often we look with our eyes and not with our hearts...

Stewardship

We are managers of what God gives us. It is up to us to wisely and with a kingdom-centered mind and heart, steward the resources God has given us. We should give to God what is His and use the rest wisely.



QUESTIONS

REMEMBERING

- 1. Who asked Jesus a really important question?** A rich young man
- 2. What question did this rich young man ask Jesus?** How do I inherit (or get) eternal life?
- 3. What did Jesus say?** Sell everything, give to the poor, then you will have treasure in heaven... then come and follow me
- 4. Did the rich young man follow Jesus?** Nope. He walked away very sad because he had many things
- 5. Why did Jesus say it was really hard for rich people to be Jesus followers?**
- 6. Who can be saved then? Can anyone be saved by God?**



COLORING SHEET

ON THE NEXT PAGE



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