

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Who Then Can Be Saved**

Last time...The rich young ruler who came running to Jesus

- wanting to know what he must do to inherit eternal life
- knowing he lacked something but not knowing what it was

Jesus showed him what he lacked...things in his heart that were between him and God

1. his “goodness”
2. his riches

The young man left grieved...he didn’t like Jesus’ answer:

- Don’t be thorny soil – unfruitful because of the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches
- Have a “sold-out” devotion to Me, and follow Me into eternal life
- I AM your sufficiency when I write the Law with the Spirit of God in the fleshly tables of your heart, for the letter of the letter kills but the Spirit gives eternal life

This time...Jesus’ teaching moment with His astonished disciples continues

1. how hard it is for those that trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God
2. so hard, in fact, that it is easier for a camel to pass thru the eye of a needle

And this leads to an eternal truth regarding salvation

We will again be in Matt 19, Luke 18, and Mark 10

### **Matt 19:24-30**

v23-24 I say unto you...camel...eye of a needle:

After the rich young ruler’s tragic refusal to follow Jesus (v21-22) Jesus makes good (there’s that word again!) use of the teaching moment (v23)

“I say unto you you”...Thus saith the Lord

And Jesus makes His point about the difficulty of entering heaven by a rich man who trusts in his riches with a mind-blowing comment:

It is easier for a camel to go thru the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God

How should we interpret this teaching?

Consider      Matt 7:4      *Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?*

                 Matt 23:24      *Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.*

We should read it just as the Lord said it...and not read anything into it or attempt a fanciful explanation of it

e.g. an unladed camel “crawling” thru a city gate...which has the specter of possibility

Jesus’ example is so exaggerated that we cannot imagine it, much less attempt it...it is absolutely inconceivable!

v25      Who then shall be saved:

            And Jesus’ teaching had the intended effect – it blew the minds of the disciples

            Leaving them with a very important question: Who then can be saved?

            Note: Not asked: “Does man need to be saved?”

            If that religious, moral, wealthy, young, important man is not saved, who can be saved?

            The emphasis being on “religious”, which is deceiving unto death.

v26      Jesus beheld....with men this is impossible but with God:

            As the disciples voiced their amazement and bewilderment, Jesus observed them.

            Then He answered the question...that was not directed at Him

            The issue: Salvation, who can be saved

            Man saving himself: impossible

            Man is not good (v17)

            Man has a no-good sin nature (Rom 7:18)

            Man’s heart is deceitful and desperately wicked (Jer 17:9)

            Unregenerate man is dead in his sin (Eph 2:1-3)

            Thus, the flawed, finite, corrupted, dead cannot do ANYTHING to save himself (by his works or on his merit)

Answer to “What can I do to save myself?”...NOTHING, I cannot save myself, I am hopelessly lost without a Helper

Next word: But

But the perfect, pure, Infinite, holy, living, Almighty...good...God  
(Gen 18:4, Jer 32:27) can save man!

Is 12:2        Behold, God *is* my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH *is* my strength and *my* song; he also is become my salvation

Is 49:8        Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee

Is 61:10       I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness...

Salvation is only possible if God does it...  
His work, His merit, His righteousness

And He can save ANY man...who accepts His terms of peace

1 Cor 2:2

Rom 5:1        justified by faith, have peace with God thru

Matt 5:9        peacemakers, children of God

A truth as simple as v17a (the same truth)

v27    we have forsaken all...what shall we have:

Peter is the one to speak for them...of course

They have done willingly what the rich young ruler was not willing to do.  
What will be their reward?

Consider       Matt 16:24    die to Self daily, flesh nailed to Cross  
John 6:63-70

Salvation is the overarching issue of the conversation/teaching

v28 Verily I say unto you, That ye:  
Thus says the Lord...for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time (v23, v24) in this Gospel written to the Jews  
  
ye which have followed Me: the 12 disciples, the “we” in v27  
  
in the regeneration: when things are made new, in the re-birth (Titus 3:5)  
  
when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory: in the Mill Reign of  
King of kings Jesus (2<sup>nd</sup> Coming)  
  
ye shall sit upon 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel: 12 Apostles  
(are only 12 Apostles! The 12<sup>th</sup> being Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles)  
will judge their people (Israel)...will be given honor and authority  
  
And after that...Rev 21:14 (12 foundation of NJ) in the Eternal State  
  
What about us who are not one of the 12 Apostles and have followed Him?

v29 every one that has forsaken:  
every one: all, any...to this day, not just the 12 apostles/disciples  
  
forsaken: “left”, “laid aside”...made subordinate and inferior to the Lord  
separated by “or”...connecting different kinds of same thing (worldly)  
(very important people and things, one’s life)  
thus Matt 16:24, Mark 10:21

- houses
- brothers
- sisters
- father
- mother
- wife
- children
- lands

for My name’s sake: on account of My Authority, pre-eminence (Matt 10:37-39)

receive a hundredfold: ala v21...treasure in heaven (spiritual, eternal)  
Jesus is not preaching a Prosperity gospel!

Not rewarded in kind with worldly things here on a cursed earth; if so,  
Jesus would be contradicting the very teaching He is giving  
but rewarded with Godly relationships and spiritual things

Blood-bound relationships are superior to blood-close relationships

shall inherit everlasting life: the subject of this whole encounter  
(v16, v21...the same truth)

Next word...

v30 first...last...last...first:

Let's leave this for the parallel account in Mark

### **Mark 10:25-31**

v24-26 a rich man:

Not just speaking about the rich young ruler but every rich man that trusts  
in his riches (v24)

And the 12 disciples were astonished out of measure

- superabundantly ala Eph 3:20
- thunderstruck
- flabbergasted
- “knocked off their feet”

And, talking among themselves, not with Jesus, asked each other,  
“Who then shall be saved?”

They have no answer

So Jesus answers

v27 with men...but not with God:

It is impossible for man to save himself from the wrath of an offended God and  
eternal death

But it is certainly and categorically possible for that offended yet merciful God to  
save man without violating His nature and His perfect justice...

by sending His Son

- to be His Lamb/Sin Sacrifice as a substitute for man,  
thereby satisfying His justice
- with a merciful and gracious ministry of reconciliation, making  
whosoever will believe into a new creature in Christ,  
to be made a child of God by the power of God

Salvation is impossible for man ie he cannot earn it, does not deserve it  
Salvation by works is a bankrupt counterfeit gospel (Religion)

Salvation is an act of God and a gift from God (Eph 2:8-9)

v28 we have left all:

Peter's question is left unasked (not recorded) here but definitely implied

“We left everything behind, walked away from everything, to follow You...  
prosperous fishing businesses, a very prosperous tax collecting gig...  
If we cannot be saved why are we doing this?”

v29-30 no man...or...now in this time...and...into the world to come:

Not recorded by Mark, the Gospel written to the Gentiles, is the special honor and  
authority the 12 Apostles will have (judging Israel) in the Mil Reign,  
the kingdom of God on earth

But Jesus' reply here is for them...and for whosoever will believe

Promises of God from both sides of eternity for those who believe in Jesus Christ:

- this world:
  - 100x better relationships and better things (spiritual)
  - persecutions
- next world:
  - eternal life
  - adoption into the family of God
  - joint-heir with the Son of God our Bridegroom

No man who has left...

released into God's hands, not allowed to stand between him and God...

- house...owning a home may be the American Dream but it is  
not the Heavenly Hope  
or
- brethren (brothers) or sisters or father or mother...  
we stand with Jesus, we are witnesses of Jesus to them  
vs Matt 8:21-22  
or
- wife or children...we can only love our spouse and children if  
we first love Jesus (otherwise we love Self first)  
or
- lands

for My sake and the Gospel's...sharing the Good News of Salvation in  
Jesus Christ alone, Matt 28:18-20, as co-laborers with God is the purpose  
of “our” newness of life”

but he shall receive hundredfold...real treasure (v21)

1. now, in this (present) time

- houses...His dwelling place (John 17:17-23)  
and
- brethren and sisters and mothers and children...  
the family of God "in Christ" (Matt 23:9)  
and
- lands  
with
- persecutions...since this world hates Him, will hate us  
2 Cor 4:9 Persecuted, but not forsaken  
2 Tim 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ  
Jesus shall suffer persecution

Phil 1:29

Phil 3:7-14

2. in the world to come...new heaven, new earth, New Jerusalem,  
the Eternal State

- eternal life...the subject of this teaching moment

The answer to v17 is v21 and v29-20

v31 first...last:

For My sake and the Gospel's (v29, 1 Cor 15:1-4)

Matt 15:24 **I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

The first: the Jews (Rom 1:16)

The last: the Gentiles

Many...but not all (early Church was Jewish, Acts 3:19-26)...of the first  
will be last (Rom 9-11)

The Last (Acts 1:8, Acts 26:16-18) will be first

The mystery of the kingdom of God – Jew and Gentile

The Gospel went to the Jew first, the Gentile last.

The fulfillment of the promise is given to the Gentile first, the Jew last.

Rom 11:11-25

All Israel shall be saved after the DoL