

Matthew 19:16-30 **Eye of a Needle – The Rich and the Kingdom of Heaven**

What shall I do to inherit Eternal Life?

16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

Keep the commandments of the Torah

17 So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." 18 He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 19 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "

If you want to be perfect

20 The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" 21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven

23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 And again I say to you, 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."

Who then can be saved?

25 When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"

With men it is impossible, all things are possible with God

26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

We have left all

27 Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?"

Whoever has sacrificed for My name's sake shall receive his reward and inherit Eternal Life

28 So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.

First and Last

30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

The Question – How to inherit Eternal Life? [Matthew 19:16-30, Mark 10:17-31, Luke 18:18-30]

✚ Good Teacher, What shall I do to inherit Eternal Life? [Matthew 19:16, Mark 10:17, Luke 18:18]

Jesus' answer

- ✚ None good but God. [Matthew 19:17, Mark 10:18, Luke 18:19]
- ✚ Keep the commandments to inherit Eternal Life. [Leviticus 18:5, Deuteronomy 4:1, 40, 5:33, 6:3, 18, 24, 8:1-3, 11:18-21, 12:28, 16:20, 30:15-16, 19-20, 32:45-47, Nehemiah 9:29, Ezekiel 20:11, 13, 21, Matthew 19:16-17, Mark 10:19, Luke 10:25-28, 18:20, Galatians 3:12]
 - ✧ God promised life for keeping all His commandments which is still valid in the New Covenant, but they must be kept perfectly through the entire life.
 - ✧ Which ones? The Ten Commandments.

Self-righteousness

- ✚ The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" [Matthew 19:20, Mark 10:20, Luke 18:21]

If you want to be perfect

- ✚ Jesus looked at him and loved him. [Mark 10:21]
- ✚ Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up your cross and follow Me." [Matthew 19:21, Mark 10:21, Luke 18:22]
 - ✧ Perfection takes a person a great step beyond pure adherence to the Law, and into the deepest recesses of the heart.
 - ✧ Sell what you have, give to the poor and you will have treasure in Heaven.
 - ✧ Then come and follow Me in a life of self sacrifice giving the gospel to the lost.

Rich man's Sorrow

- ✚ But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. [Matthew 19:22, Mark 10:22, Luke 18:23]

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven

- ✚ Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "**How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!**" [Matthew 19:23, Mark 10:23, Luke 18:24]
- ✚ Trusting in wealth will not gain you access to the Kingdom of Heaven. [Mark 10:24]
- ✚ When a person is rich, it is too easy to rely on the earthly wealth you hold for your future security, rather than acknowledge your need for a Savior and seek God's provision.
- ✚ Jesus knew that some would claim to have kept all the Laws of God, as the young man had just done, and that is why in the sermon on the mount, Jesus took the laws of the Torah and made them so tight that no one would be able to claim perfect adherence to them and thus feel he was worthy of eternal life. [Matthew 5:20-48]
- ✚ The perfect work of the Law is to convict everyone that they on their own can in no way be worthy of Eternal Life, and thus the Law is meant to bring us all to Jesus Who is God's doing and our only sure path to the Kingdom of Heaven. [Romans 3:9-19, 5:12, 7:7-12, 9:30-33, 11:30-32, Galatians 2:16, 3:22-24, James 2:10, Psalm 19:7]
- ✚ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that **it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.**" [Matthew 19:23, Mark 10:24, Luke 18:24]
- ✚ And again I say to you, **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.**" [Matthew 19:24, Mark 10:25, Luke 18:25]

Who then can be saved?

- ✚ When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "**Who then can be saved?**" [Matthew 19:25, Mark 10:26, Luke 18:26]
 - ✧ This is the normal question one would ask from a human standpoint, and it is the question Jesus wanted them to ask.

With men it is impossible, all things are possible with God

✚ **With man it is impossible**, God has made it impossible for man to enter Eternal Life based on his own good works. [Matthew 19:26, Mark 10:27, Luke 18:27]

✚ **All things are possible with God.** [Matthew 19:26, Mark 10:27, Luke 18:27]

✧ God's provision for Eternal Life, is through faith in His accomplished work of Salvation through Jesus our Savior.

✧ Therefore, the Law brings us to Christ Jesus. [Galatians 3:22-24]

We have left all

✚ Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" [Matthew 19:27, Mark 10:28, Luke 18:28]

✚ So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that **in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me (continued with Me in My Trials) will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.** [Matthew 19:28, Luke 22:28]

And **I bestow upon you a kingdom**, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, ³⁰ that **you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**" [Luke 22:29-30]

✧ The **regeneration** is a reference to the **Kingdom of Heaven** when Jesus will sit on the throne as King of kings and Lord of Lords ruling the entire earth in perfect righteousness and justice for a thousand years.

✧ The result of perfect righteousness and justice, will be universal peace for man and animal.

✧ At that time, **the entire earth will be restored like the Garden of Eden.** [Isaiah 4:2, 11:6-9, 65:25, 32:15-20, 35:1-10, 29:17-19, 41:17-20, 43:14-21, 51:3-5, Romans 8:18-23]

✧ Peter referred to it as the **restoration of all things.** [Acts 3:19-21]

✧ At that time the twelve apostles will sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. [Matthew 19:28, Luke 22:29-30]

✚ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. [Matthew 19:29, Mark 10:29-30, Luke 18:29-30]

First and Last [Matthew 19:30, 20:16, Mark 10:31, Luke 13:28-30]

✚ But many who are first will be last, and the last first. [Matthew 19:30, Mark 10:31, Luke 13:28-30]

✧ All messages of Salvation God sent to the world came first to the Jews, and they are the first to receive the Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven and to be called into it.

✧ The Gentiles were the last to receive the call into the Kingdom of Heaven.

✧ The Jews who refused the call into the Kingdom will be cast into torment where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. [Matthew 8:12]

✧ Gentiles who received the call into the Kingdom of Heaven and believed, will be ushered into it and be seated along with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the Saints. [Matthew 8:11]

✧ So Gentiles who were last to hear will be among the first into the Kingdom because of their believing faith.

✧ Jews who were first to hear will be last in the Kingdom, or cast out altogether because of their slowness to believe or their lack of belief. [Galatians 3:22-24]