

Matthew 19:16-30

“Wealthy, but not rich”

The rich man- even though he was wealthy- did not have true riches in God's kingdom.

He did not have the treasure that was available to him.

Contrast in this passage:

Verses 16-22:

Two dangers of riches

Verses 23-30:

Two wonders of God's grace

1st Danger:

Riches trap us into thinking that eternal life is simply one more possession, along with many others within our grasp.

Verse 20: **“All these I have kept”**

2nd Danger:

Pursuing riches leads to a focus on external obedience, and we are blinded to our own idolatry.

“Materialism occupied the place of God in his life, and because of this he was in perpetual transgression of the first commandment of having no other gods before the true God.”

Pastor Kent Hughes

Question-

Is Jesus really teaching a person is saved by giving all of one's possessions to the poor?

- Remember- Jesus does not call all people to an ascetic life. He encourages us to “store up for yourselves treasures in heaven” by investing in God’s kingdom.
- Poverty by itself does not solve the underlying problems of greed, envy, or idolatry.

What Jesus is showing us-

Once this man was confronted with the reality of parting with his possessions in order to follow Jesus, he decided it was not worth it. He simply loved his possessions more than the opportunity to follow Jesus.

Any of us could be guilty of this kind of cost-calculation (money, relationships, status, reputation, leisure, career, etc.)

The Wonder of God's Grace:

1. Salvation is God's provision for man's inability.

“Who then can be saved?”

“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

The Wonder of God's Grace:

2. Following Christ brings exponential satisfaction and joy compared to what the Christian leaves behind.

“And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.” (Matthew 19:29 ESV)

The Point-

The satisfaction of living in complete dependence on Jesus- and also living in Him- makes giving our trust in earthly things more than worth it.