

Tuesday Morning Bible Study  
**God With Us**  
A Study of Matthew: "The Rich Young Ruler"  
Matthew 19:16-22

July 2, 2019

*"If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (Matthew 19:21)*

**I. The Rich Young Man**

- a. The young man took pride in thinking all was right in his life so He asked Jesus what was lacking in his life.
- b. Jesus was not advocating the selling of our possessions as an absolute condition for entering the kingdom nor should we take a "vow of poverty."
- c. Jesus used this story to expose the true nature of the young man's heart. Jesus knew the young man was still a slave to materialism and his possessions.
  1. His life might have been a "good" moral example, but his heart was not in love with God.
  2. There was a contradiction in the man's life. He loved the *things* more than God.
- d. Jesus' answer to Peter shows that it is no loss to give up everything to follow Jesus. There may be difficulty and suffering, even persecution and death, but we gain more than we lose.
  1. Those who believe they can gain the world, as well as eternal life, will be disappointed.
- e. It appears that the young man wanted to have his cake and eat it too.
- f. Let the truth be told, due to our imperfections, there is always something lacking from our lives.
- g. Whatever Jesus requires of us to leave behind (subtraction), He seeks to add more than we expect (multiplication). (Phillip 3:8)
- h. The stumbling-block was his money. What is it for you? What do you still lack?
- i. We do not impress God with our own set of righteousness, that would be like us trying to impress "Superman or the Flash" with how fast we can run. Or telling a fish, "Watch me swim."
- j. God is pleased and glorified by our obedience.

**II. Jesus Teaches on Riches**

- a. Many religious groups and Christian sects teach that riches were a mark of God's favor.
- b. The Lord never promised we would be monetarily wealthy on earth. He promises care!
- c. We tend to have a fascination about wealth, having more stuff and acquiring upgrades.
- d. Read verse 24. *It is frankly impossible for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.* Why?
- e. Money tends to make us selfish, materialistic, independent of God and of other people.
- f. In the ancient world, the poor were considered *the unfortunately born*. It was perceived by many if someone was born into wealth they were favored by the gods.
  1. In the eyes of many the poor were disfavored.
- g. Outwardly the young man had it going on, he looked and acted "good." Inwardly, he was no good.
- h. Jesus preached an upside-down kingdom. The least (poor) will be first.

**III. Apply the Scriptures**

- a. It is utterly impossible for a *religious* person, a *rich* person, to be saved, because no one can earn or pay their way into the kingdom. Wait a minute, *I thought nothing was impossible for God.*
- b. Jesus knows how to bring believers into the kingdom, however, He does not force anyone into the kingdom. We must yield to His will for our lives.
- c. Be grateful where you were born, how you were born. Remember God was there. What will you do with the life He gave? Will you follow Him or go your own way?