



LESSON 111 - MARK 10:23-31

23Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" **24**And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God! **25**It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. **26**And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? **27**And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible. **28**Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. **29**And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, **30**But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

1. How do people get their riches? Look up 1 Chronicles 29:12, Psalm 75:6-7, Proverbs 30:8-9
2. Why did Jesus say, "It is hard for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God" to His disciples?
3. Why were the disciples astonished at this remark?
- 4.a. What is the significance of Jesus calling the disciples "children?"
b. What did Jesus say was required of those who entered the kingdom of God?
5. Why would anyone trust in riches or any other thing, thinking it would gain him an entrance into the kingdom of God?
6. Do you trust in riches, yourself, or anything else, rather than the Lord to provide what you need in this life--and the next?

Answers

1. God gives riches and promotions.
2. Jesus wanted to correct their thinking and give them a new understanding of how God evaluates/judges people. Rich people have the temptation to trust in their money and power rather than in God. Money is temporal; it is not valuable enough to earn anyone's entrance into heaven. Rich people must humble themselves to trust in God through Jesus Christ for their salvation, as James 1:10 states: **10**But the rich (let him rejoice- v 9), in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away (without salvation, if he only trusts in his wealth-my addition). **11**For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways (if he

does not turn to the Lord-my addition).

3. The Jews thought that if a man were wealthy, it meant he had God's approval. To them, God's blessing of riches made a man special and was evidence of his spiritual respectability and acceptance by God.

The disciples couldn't understand how it would be hard for wealthy people to enter the kingdom of God. They thought God loved rich people more than any others and that rich people would be the first in the kingdom. They were regarding the outward appearance, forgetting what the scripture taught in 1 Samuel 16:7:... for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. The disciples were astonished to hear such a different view of riches.

4.a. This was a new form of address which signified how Jesus saw the disciples. Heb 4:13 Behold I and the children which God hath given me.

John 13:33 33Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you. 34A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you...

It typified the loving, fatherly attitude of Jesus toward His followers and, at the same time, spoke of the need for spiritual growth in the disciples' lives. They were children in spiritual things, when they needed to be adults in their thinking and faith. (For more on this, read Ephesians 4:11-16.)

b. Trust--not in riches--but in God. Jesus said that believing in Him is what gives you entrance into the kingdom of God. (Read his lesson to Nicodemus, a well-known leader of the Jews, in John 3:1-21.)

This reminds me that not riches or anything else could qualify man for heaven's gate. Only the sinless life of the Son of God Himself was valuable enough to pay redemption's price to save mankind. Jesus was and is the only Way and Means to enter into the kingdom of God. There is nothing a rich man, or poor, can do except repent and believe on Who Jesus is and what He did on the cross to pay the penalty for his sins. Jesus was the only hope mankind had.

5. People generally seem only to think about life and success in this temporal world, as if there were not a world to come. They trust in themselves. They think they haven't been so bad, because they judge themselves by other people who live worse than they. They aren't interested in knowing what God says, but they should be.

God doesn't judge by comparison; He judges righteousness, and here's what God says about lost people's righteousnesses. Isaiah 64:6 6But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. So people need real righteousness, the kind that would be acceptable to God, and the "good news" is that Jesus offered us His righteousness, and it became ours when we confessed Him as Lord and Savior. 2 Cor 5:21 be ye reconciled to God. 21For he hath made him sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Phil 3:9 that I may win Christ, 9And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Isaiah 54:17 17No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that

shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

6. From 1 Tim 6:17, riches are termed "uncertain," not something in which to put your trust for this life or the next. Only the Lord can be trusted not to fail you. He has already made the eternal payment for your redemption and provided the righteousness of His Son to qualify you for the next life.

In addition, He has promised to help you and to provide for you in this life.

Matt 6:31-33 31Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

[Back](#)

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