

Sermon Notes
Week of March 16, 2008
“From Poverty to Riches”
Luke 18:23-30

This passage (Lk. 18:23-30) is Jesus' commentary on the previous passage (Lk. 18:18-22).

“How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God.” (Lk. 18:24b)

Why was this so difficult to believe?

They believed that wealthy Jews were wealthy because God had _____ them.

They believed if you were in trouble, God is giving you trouble because you're _____.

They believed if you got blessing, God is giving you blessing because you're _____.

In Jewish society, the more _____ you had the more they perceived God had blessed you – and therefore the higher ranking citizen you were in the _____ of God.

The rabbis even taught that with alms you purchased _____!

“For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” (Lk. 18:25)

We find in the Talmud one rabbi's statement: “It would be easier to put an elephant through the eye of a needle.”

In Mesopotamia an _____ was the largest animal.

In Israel the _____ was the largest animal.

Various interpretations of “needle”:

1) Gk. “**kamelos**” should be translated “**kamilos**”. Contrasting “camel” vs “_____”

2) Some have suggested there was a “_____” in the Jerusalem world.

3) Still others believe it is an actual _____ needle.

BOTTOM LINE:

They were taught a _____ / _____ system

“What is impossible with men is possible with God.” (Lk. 18:26b)

Only God can change the _____.

The world is full of people who want _____ in their life.

Contemporary Christianity tries to tweak, _____, turn, _____ and motivate!

Jn. 1:13 “... who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

Regeneration (i.e. _____) is not of human effort. This did not happen on any _____ basis.

Not _____, not man's _____, not any human _____!

Eternal life means being born from _____.

Born Again = Born from _____ (Gk. another)

“See, we have left our homes and followed you.” (Peter-Lk. 18:28)

“What then will we have?” (Peter – Mt. 19:27b)

When you come to Christ, you leave it all behind, all the _____ are changed and you love Him with all your _____, _____, _____ and _____ and you want Christ to such a degree that you would let go of anything and _____!

“... you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Jesus-Mt. 19:28b)

The Millennial Kingdom or the Kingdom of the Lord is sometimes called the _____.

It is the _____ of the world.

In Acts 3 – it is called “times of _____”; restitution or _____.

WHO'S GOING TO BE IN THAT GLORIOUS KINGDOM?

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"How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God." (Lk. 18:24b)

Why was this so difficult to believe?

They believed that wealthy Jews were wealthy because God had BLESSED them.

They believed if you were in trouble, God is giving you trouble because you're SINFUL.

They believed if you got blessing, God is giving you blessing because you're RIGHTEOUS.

In Jewish society, the more WEALTH you had the more they perceived God had blessed you – and therefore the higher ranking citizen you were in the KINGDOM of God.

The rabbis even taught that with alms you purchased SALVATION!

"For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." (Lk. 18:25)

We find in the Talmud one rabbi's statement: "It would be easier to put an elephant through the eye of a needle."

In Mesopotamia an ELEPHANT was the largest animal.

In Israel the CAMEL was the largest animal.

Various interpretations of "needle":

- 1) Gk. "**kamelos**" should be translated "**kamilos**". Contrasting "camel" vs "CORD"
- 2) Some have suggested there was a NEEDLE GATE" in the Jerusalem world.
- 3) Still others believe it is an actual SEWING needle.

BOTTOM LINE:

They were taught a WORKS / RIGHTEOUSNESS system

"What is impossible with men is possible with God." (Lk. 18:26b)

Only God can change the HEART.

The world is full of people who want CHANGE in their life.

Contemporary Christianity tries to tweak, TWIST, turn, MANIPULATE and motivate!

Jn. 1:13 "... who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

Regeneration (i.e. SALVATION) is not of human effort. This did not happen on any HUMAN basis.

Not BLOOD, not man's WILL, not any human POWER!

Eternal life means being born from ABOVE.

Born Again = Born from ABOVE (Gk. anothen)

"See, we have left our homes and followed you." (Peter-Lk. 18:28)

"What then will we have?" (Peter – Mt. 19:27b)

When you come to Christ, you leave it all behind, all the PRIORITIES are changed and you love Him with all your HEART, SOUL, MIND and STRENGTH and you want Christ to such a degree that you would let go of anything and EVERYTHING!

"...you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Jesus-Mt. 19:28b)

The Millennial Kingdom or the Kingdom of the Lord is sometimes called the REGENERATION.

It is the REBIRTH of the world.

In Acts 3 – it is called "times of REFRESHING"; restitution or RESTORATION.