

Riches

Matthew 19:16-30

Okay, here we go! Spring has sprung! Let's get ready for the heat! The heat outside and the heat in class today, as we take on possessions and their importance in our lives. God has blessed us richly. Now, to put it all in perspective... Jesus loves you and He loves the rich man in our story. Today, the goal is to not be offended but to put into perspective what God desires of us. A time of reflection on a hard subject.

Matthew 19:16-30

Okay so we have the setup here.

- a) A rule keeper
- b) Wealth
- c) Difficulty with wealth
- d) Reward

1) Why does God give us the money / things He gives us?

Each of us have life choices to make. Some of us make better choices than others. I for one, know that if I had made good choices all of my life, I would probably be well off financially today. Some people struggle more than others due to the poor decisions of other people. None the less, whether you have a lot or you have little, the question remains.....

2) How can money or things keep you personally from serving?

Luke 18:18-24 (More Info) Jesus tells the rich young ruler.

Mark 10:20-22 – Jesus loved him.

So, there is a deeper connection to the money and things. The guy has a good heart. He is a rule follower, but Jesus sees a deeper, eternal issue with him. It says, first the ruler becomes sad, and then he leaves in sorrow.

The text reads, "He had great possessions" or "He was very rich".

3) a) What is the deeper issue?

b) How could that apply to you concerning your possessions?

Obviously, our answers may vary greatly, especially since we all have different situations. For me possessions do not really (or do they?) keep me from that relationship. (Legos, Ebay) Whatever you have, God has blessed you with.

What exactly is 24 hours of service.....?

What exactly is service at all?

4) What is self-serving.....?

1 Timothy 6:6-10

“Godliness with contentment.” I wonder if the rich young ruler had that. Or if he had a form of a good life with no real relationship. I like how it says *“the root of all kinds of evil”* and *“pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”*

The struggle to survive, to get what we need, can be muddied by wants beyond needs. But relationship with God... that is the most important need. When you go see Him, will He be proud of you?

Matthew 19:22-26 ²² *But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.* 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.”* ²⁵ *When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?”* ²⁶ *But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”*

Jesus does not sugarcoat it or browbeat here. He is very direct and intentional. Obviously, the ones that don't get in are unsaved.

5) What does verse 26 mean to you personally?

You know it is funny --- that Grace ---- that overflowing Grace. The statement *“Who then can be saved?”* ---- resounds to me. It means everyone will have this worldly draw --- to be pulled away from Godly affection to worldly infection.

Matthew 19:27-30 ²⁷ *Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?”* 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.* ³⁰ *But many who are first will be last, and the last first.*

Once again ----- suffering entails loss ----- Peter says *“we have left all”*. We have laid down our lives.

Bottom Line.

6) How can you serve better with what you have?

The answer to that questions may mean you have to lose something. Jesus saw the deeper issue and it was not simply the having of things. It is how do these things interfere with our heart and our relationship with God/Jesus.

Let's pray.