

Week 33
May 17, 2009

Wealth and the Kingdom Way

Matthew 19:16-30

Jesus dialogues with a rich man

Richie: *What good thing must I do to get eternal life?*

Jesus: *Only One is good.
But if you want life, obey ...*

Richie: *Which ones do I obey?*

Jesus: *The core commandments
(Exodus 20:12-16, Deuteronomy 5:16-20, Leviticus 19:18)*

Richie: *Yes, but what else?*

Jesus: *If you want to be perfect, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.
Then come and follow me.*

[The man goes away sad because he has great wealth.]

Jesus dialogues with the twelve

Jesus: *It's very hard for rich people to enter the kingdom of heaven.*

The disciples: *Who then can be saved?*

Jesus: *With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.*

Peter: *We've left everything to follow you. What about us?*

Jesus: *All things will be renewed
I will sit on a glorious throne
The twelve will sit with me
Those who sacrifice will be hugely blessed
Many who are first will be last
Many who are last will be first*

Crucial messages

1. Eternal life comes through a person
(John 3:16, 17:3; Romans 10:9)
2. Obedience enriches our lives in the best ways
(John 14:15-27; Romans 8:6)
3. Greater relinquishment leads to greater reward
(Malachi 3:10, Acts 20:35)
4. The more we have, the harder it is to relinquish
(Matthew 6:19-21)
5. The more we have, the harder it is to follow
(Matthew 6:24)

6. First and most, Jesus asks us to believe and follow
7. Wealth and possessions might or might not be your hindrance, but ...
(Matthew 8:18-22; Luke 9:57-60)
8. God makes eternity possible, not human effort
(Ephesians 2:8)
9. God has no respect for human pecking orders
(Matthew 20:24-28)
10. Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness
(Matthew 6:33)

"Your identity is what you've committed to."

Mercy I Eyadiel
Stanford University