

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

Jesus offers the gift of eternal life to those willing to follow Him.



TRANSFORMATION
for Adult LifeGroups

MATTHEW 19:16-26

JANUARY 17, 2018/JANUARY 21, 2018

TODAY'S TEXT AND MAIN IDEA

Text: MATTHEW 19:26 (NIV), Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Main Idea: Jesus offers the gift of eternal life to those willing to follow Him.

FIRST THOUGHTS

- What are various ways people in our culture think they can obtain salvation? What is "good enough"?

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Jesus led His disciples on the journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. The time had come for Him to face the cross. As they traveled together, large crowds accompanied them. Along the way, Jesus responded to a question about divorce and instructed His disciples about entering the kingdom of heaven like a child (19:1-15). That's when someone approached Jesus with the question about what he needed to do to enter the kingdom of heaven. Jesus instructed him sell his possessions, give the money to the poor, and follow Him (19:16-22).

After the conversation, Jesus warned His disciples about how wealth can prevent a person from being saved (19:23-26). He went on to tell them about what would happen to them as well as to Him (19:27-30). Then He reinforced His assurance with the parable of the vineyard workers.

As Jesus got closer to Jerusalem, He reminded His disciples that He would be killed and would rise again on the third day. The mother of James and John approached him and asked Him to give her two sons the privilege of occupying the highest positions in His kingdom. Her request irritated the other disciples. Jesus addressed their jealousy by challenging them to give themselves to the priority of serving instead of being served (20:17-28).

Two blind men cried out to Jesus as He walked past them. They asked Him to heal them. While the crowd rebuked them, Jesus' compassion for them prompted Him to restore their sight (20:29-34).

EXPLORE THE TEXT

STANDARD DEFINED

> Read Matthew 19:16-20

- What is the difference between the "eternal life" (v. 16) the young man asked about and the life of which Jesus spoke?
- Why do we sometimes limit the number of commandments we want to obey?
- What is the difference between outward performance and obedient trust in God?

IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP

> Read Matthew 19:21-22

- Is it necessary to sell everything you own in order to have eternal life in Jesus Christ? Explain.
- What was Jesus asking the man to do in verse 21?
- In what was the young man trusting for his security? In what do we trust today?

PROVISION TO ACCEPT

> Read Matthew 19:23-26

- How did Jesus respond to the disciples' question in verse 25?
- How can wealth make it difficult to follow Christ?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

- Jesus pinpointed the real issue for this young man: his love of material wealth and possessions. If Jesus were to pinpoint your real issue, what would it be? Why? How would you respond?
- What have you relinquished in order to follow Jesus? What have been the results?

Personal Challenge: Take time this week to evaluate these tough questions for yourself. What comes between you and your complete surrender to the Lordship of Jesus? How does that affect your ministry to others? Is Jesus asking you to forsake or abandon something right now? What is your response?

UPCOMING LESSONS

- Read Matthew 21:1-11
- We will see how the disciples obeyed an unusual instruction from Jesus and how it changed their lives.
- How willing would you be to obey an unusual instruction from God?

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

21st - Exodus 1-2; Psalm 88; Luke 21 | **22nd** - Exodus 3-5; Luke 22 | **23rd** - Exodus 6-8; Luke 23 | **24th**- Exodus 9-11; Luke 24 | **25th** - Exodus 12-13; Psalm 21; Acts 1 | **26th**- Exodus 14-16; Acts 2 | **27th** - Exodus 17-20; Acts 3



"People didn't need a staircase; they needed a Rescuer. Because the way back to heaven wasn't a staircase; it was a Person. People could never reach up to Heaven, so Heaven would have to come down to them."

Jesus Storybook Bible