

Why Is It A Rich Man?

Promise: trusting in Jesus for all things results in eternal life

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Psa 90:12-17; Heb 3:12-19; [Mark 10:17-22](#)
(Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, 10/10/21)

Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. – v. 22

Lead In – Certainly many individuals came up to Jesus with questions pertaining to inheriting eternal life. Why was it important that this incident be recorded in the Gospel of Mark, and that it involved a rich man? I will let the cat out of the bag early, and give three reasons why it is important. First, most of us seem to envy the wealthy. Second, many of us assume that riches are a sign of God's blessing. And third, although not the only idol, or false god, Money is perhaps the greatest of the idols.

I. The Question Is A Good One!

- A. Eternal life is more, a lot more, than endless life...
- B. Jesus questions the address of 'good teacher'...
- C. 'What must I do?' not necessarily a bad question...

II. Jesus Starts With the Second Table of the Law

- A. We don't have to deny that this is a decent man...
- B. There is a keeping that is necessary and possible!
- C. An indirect approach at arriving at the first table...

III. Only A Good Man Might Think It Possible!

- A. The not so-good in despair, but the good in pride...
- B. You cannot serve two masters!
- C. As a tool, even the Son of Man used money...

Parting Shot – And so why did it happen to be a rich man in this incident? Because his wealth happened to be more important than trusting Jesus. And that false reliance is common to many of us. But we can imagine what our Lord might say to other false reliances in our lives. What about relying so much on our good health that we never risk tending to the sick? What about enjoying prestige or power so much that we would fudge on the truth rather than to lose it? What if comfort were more important than risks and hardships in promoting the Gospel and helping needy people? This list goes on. Is it beginning to sound impossible? Are you ready to surrender to the One who makes it possible!

Ac 2:37-38 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Ac 16:30-31 Then [the Philippian Jailer] brought [Paul and Silas] out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Ge 6:9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

Lk 2:25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout.

Mark 10:17-27 ESV

The Rich Young Man

¹⁷And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." ²¹And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²²Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

²³And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."

Ac 22:12 And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there.

Ex 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before me."

Luther: "We are to fear, love, and trust God above anything else."

Mt 22:37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Lk 18:10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector."

Mt 6:24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

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