

Wealth as a Barrier to the Gospel

A. Jesus' Teaching on Wealthy Men

Rich Young Ruler (Mark 10:17-22; Matt. 19:16-22; Luke 18:18-23)

Be aware, observer:

When some learn about who Jesus is and what He wants from people, they will decide that Jesus is too much for them.

Difficulty of Riches (Mark 10:23-27; Matt. 19:23-26; Luke 18:24-27)

Be instructed, reader:

Those with riches have an extreme difficulty in being saved. However, God is able to save even wealthy men who think they have much to lose.

Eternal Reward (Mark 10:28-31; Matt. 19:27-30; Luke 18:28-30)

Be encouraged, believer:

God sees all the sacrifices you make in your decisions to follow Him. You will be blessed in this life, despite your sacrifices. And in eternity, every sacrifice will be rewarded with privileges that extend beyond entrance into God's eternal kingdom.

B. Barriers to the Gospel

- **Need** for the gospel: all have sinned against a holy God (Rom. 3:23, Rev. 21:27)
- **Provision** of the gospel: Jesus died for our sins and rose again (1 Cor. 15:3-4, 1 John 2:2)
- **Right response** to the gospel: believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31, John 3:16)
- **Common barriers** to the gospel:
 - Wealth
 - which entangles men with this life and teaches them to trust themselves
 - Religion
 - which leads to ignorance, resistance, and skepticism
 - Social pressure
 - which causes a fear of losing reputation and community
 - Pride
 - which prevents admitting their need or admitting they have been wrong

C. Examples of People Who Were Saved Despite Barriers

1. Nicodemus

- John 3:1-21
- John 7:44-52
- John 12:37-43
- John 19:38-42

2. Cornelius

- Acts 10:1-48

3. Matthew

- Luke 5:27-32

4. Saul of Tarsus

- Philippians 3:2-9