

Matthew 19:25-26 A Question of Who Can Be Saved

Introduction: A rich young ruler came to Jesus inquiring about some good thing that he might do to be saved. Jesus said that if a man wants to do something to be saved, he must keep the commandments. Jesus was implying, you don't need something to do, you need someone you can trust.

The young man claimed that he had kept the six commandments which Jesus named. Jesus could have said, "Thou shalt not covet," but if He had, the man would have claimed to have kept it. So Jesus said, "Go sell all and give it to the poor and come follow me." He refused to give his riches to the poor and he refused to follow Jesus. He went away still lost and in his sin.

Jesus said to the disciples that it is harder for a rich man to be saved than for a camel to go thru the eye of a needle? They asked, "Who then can be saved?"

I. The problem as far as the disciples were concerned.

- A. Since it was so hard for a rich man to be saved, they wondered if it would be possible for anybody to be saved.
- B. They should have known that it is possible for they were saved. (They were already saved.)
- C. What bothered the disciples was that if the rich man's love of money would keep him from being saved, then how could any man be saved? All men love money. (Some men love it more than others and some may get more than others, but all love it and covet it.)

II. Jesus' answer to the disciples: "With men this is impossible.

- A. Note that Jesus did not say that it is impossible "for" a man to be saved, (Nor "to men.")
 1. If He had, then we would all burn in hell.
 2. It is possible "for" a man to be saved.
- B. What Jesus said is that salvation is impossible "with" men.
 1. That is: it is impossible for a man to be saved by his own effort; or by his own merit.
 2. He had earlier told the young ruler to keep the commandments, but now He says that this is impossible.
 3. That is why Paul said that salvation is not of works, Ephesians 2:9; Titus 3:5.
 4. To illustrate: it is not possible for you to be a cow because you are already a human. Even so it is not possible for you to be perfect by your own good works, because you are already a sinner. (It is not possible for you to get to heaven by keeping the Law because you have already broken the Law.)

III. Jesus further said that with God all things are possible.

- A. That is, even the salvation of sinful man is possible with God. (God can save the lost sinner.)
- B. But it is not as simple as some might think. (Some might think that God could flex His muscles and call on His mighty power and save man, but not so.)
- C. In order for God to save man He had to send Jesus to the cross to suffer in the sinner's stead.
 1. God had to be just if He would be the justifier.
 2. Sin has been committed and the penalty must be paid.
 3. If God would save sinners, it would cost Him dearly.
- D. And it did.
 1. God sent Jesus to the cross and Jesus paid the price.
 2. Jesus suffered and died on the cross.
 3. He also arose from the dead.
 4. Now all who will trust in Him will be saved, Romans 10:13.

IV. Who then can be saved?

- A. Contrary to what some may tell you, anybody can be saved. "With God all things are possible."
 1. That is, anybody who still lives this side of the grave.
 2. Once you go to the grave unsaved, it is too late.

- B. Anybody can be, but not all will be. (Some still futilely insist upon doing some good thing in an attempt to save themselves.)
- C. But all who trust the Savior whom God has sent will be saved, John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:13.

Conclusion: Who can be saved? You can be.

Preached at Pleasant Hill 8-25-85 A.M.