

DANNY SHELTON - LESSON 8
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20TH
THE BEST INVESTMENT

MARK 10: 17-31

And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? ¹⁸ And Jesus said unto him, **Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.** ¹⁹ **Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.** ²⁰ And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. ²¹ Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, **One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.** ²² And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. ²³ And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, **How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!** ²⁴ And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, **Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the**

kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. ²⁶ And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? ²⁷ And Jesus looking upon them saith, **With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.**

“THE FIRST THING THAT STRUCK ME READING THESE TEXTS WAS VERSE 18..WHEN THE MAN ASKED JESUS WHAT HE MUST DO TO BE SAVED...JESUS’S ANSWER WAS “THOU KNOWEST THE COMMANDMENTS**” THEN JESUS REFERRED HIM TO THE LAST 6 COMMANDMENTS..MAN’S DUTY TO MAN... THEN THE RICH MAN SAID, I HAVE DONE ALL THESE THINGS SINCE MY YOUTH” ...BUT HERE’S THE PROBLEM.. AND JESUS KNEW IT WHEN HE ASKED THE MAN THE QUESTION...LIKE SO MANY OTHERS OF US, THIS MAN HAD FAILED TO KEEP THE VERY FIRST COMMANDMENT OF THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GOD’S BEFORE ME..**

HIS EARTHLY POSSESSIONS CAME FIRST...NO MATTER HOW MORALLY GOOD A PERSON APPEARS TO BE.. ...MORAL SAINTHOOD IS

**NOT THE KEY TO HEAVEN...OUR PERSONAL
RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS IS THE KEY TO
HEAVEN...**

**THE FIRST 4 COMMANDMENTS ARE THE
VERTICAL COMMANDMENTS POINTING UP TO
JESUS...THEY UNLOCK THE DOOR TO
UNDERSTANDING WHO GOD IS AND WHO WE
ARE...HE IS OUR CREATOR GOD AND SAVIOR
AND KING!**

**THIS REVELATION SHOULD HUMBLE US TO
FALL PROSTRATE BEFORE OUR CREATOR
GOD IN SORROW AND REPENTANCE FOR OUR
SINS..WHICH THE LORD GLADLY FORGIVES!!!
1ST JOHN 1:9**

**SO I ASKED MY SELF, "HOW DO I STAND
BEFORE GOD TODAY AS A CHRISTIAN WHEN IT
COMES TO KEEPING ALL OF GOD'S
COMMANDMENTS? HOW ABOUT YOU? ARE WE
ANY DIFFERENT THAN THE RICH MAN?**

**...IF WE HAD A ONE ON ONE, IN PERSON
MEETING WITH JESUS, WOULD WE HAVE TO
TURN AND WALK SORROWFULLY AWAY?**

**AS SDA'S WE CERTAINLY HAVE AN
UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIBLE AND WE**

**PREACH THE KEEPING OF THE 10
COMMANDMENTS, BUT UNLIKE THE RICH MAN
ARE WE WILLING TO SACRIFICE ALL FOR
GOD?.....**

**WE MAY SPECIALIZE IN THE 4TH
COMMANDMENT WHICH IS VERY IMPORTANT
TO KEEP, BUT SOME OF US ALLOW CULTURE
AND POLITICS TO BLIND OUR EYES TO SOME
OF THE OTHER COMMANDMENTS...**

**MANY OF US ARE NO DIFFERENT THAN THIS
RICH MAN...PERHAPS WE CAN SAY THAT WE
HAVE KEPT ALL THE COMMANDMENTS FROM
THE TIME WE WERE YOUNG...BUT IN
ACTUALLY...WE MAY STILL HAVE OTHER
gOD'S BEFORE HIM..**

**THEN NEXT I WAS STRUCK WITH VERSE 21:.. "Then
Jesus beholding him loved him, (THIS IN ITSELF IS
NOT SURPRISING AS THE BIBLE SAYS, "The Lord
hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have
loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with
lovingkindness have I drawn thee." JEREMIAH 31:3**

**BUT I THINK SOME TIMES IN OUR HUMANNESS WE
FORGET HOW PERSONAL LOVE IS TO JESUS. I
THINK JESUS FEELS COMPASSION AND LOVE FOR
THIS MAN AS HE KNOWS IN ADVANCE THAT HE IS**

NOT TRULY WILLING TO GIVE EVERY THING TO SERVE HIM.

SO BASICALLY WHEN MARK SAYS THAT JESUS LOVED HIM..IT REMINDS ME THAT JESUS LOVES EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US AND IT HURTS HIM DEEPLY WHEN WE REJECT HIS LOVE...

YES, JESUS WOULD HAVE GIVEN HIS LIFE TO SAVE ONLY ONE PERSON..AND HERE WE SEE JESUS CONVERSING ONE ON ONE WITH THIS MAN.

NOW, I'M GUESSING THIS MAN WAS NOT A HAPPY PERSON..SOMETIMES TOO MUCH MONEY, POSSESSIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY CAN ROB US OF OUR JOY...I CAN IMAGINE THAT WHEN HE SAW JESUS AND THE DISCIPLES HE KNEW INSTANTLY THAT SOMETHING WAS WRONG IN HIS SPIRITUAL LIFE...SO THAT'S WHY HE TURNED TO JESUS AND ASKED, WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE.

WE KNOW THAT JESUS LOVED HIM LIKE NO OTHER PERSON EVER COULD. THE SAVIOR WANTED TO SPEND ETERNITY WITH HIM..AND YET THIS MAN HAVING MET THE MASTER OF MASTERS, THE CREATOR OF THE WORLD CHOSE DEATH OVER LIFE...

THE MAN MAY NOT HAVE EVEN REALIZED THAT HE WAS IN A LOST STATE SPIRITUALLY...BUT NOW,

FACE TO FACE WITH THE TRUTH GIVER HE SIMPLY WALKED AWAY FROM ETERNAL LIFE...

THEN IN VERSES 23-25 JESUS SEEMS TO CENTER IN ON HOW HARD IT IS FOR A RICH MAN TO ENTER HEAVEN....HE LIKENS IT TO A CAMEL GOING THROUGH A NEEDLE...THE "EYE OF THE NEEDLE" WAS INDEED A NARROW GATEWAY INTO JERUSALEM.

SINCE CAMEL'S WERE HEAVILY LOADED WITH GOODS AND RIDERS, THEY WOULD NEED TO BE UNLOADED IN ORDER TO PASS THROUGH. THEREFORE, THE ANALOGY IS THAT A RICH MAN IN A SIMILAR FASHION WOULD HAVE TO UNLOAD HIS MATERIAL POSSESSIONS IN ORDER TO ENTER INTO HEAVEN...MAYBE FROM A SPIRITUAL POINT OF VIEW IT SIMPLY MEANS THAT WE CHRISTIANS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO GET RID OF A LOT OF BAGGAGE IF WE ARE GOING TO ENTER HEAVEN!!..

WHILE BIBLE POINTS OUT HERE THAT THE RICH MAN'S POSSESSIONS WERE HIS DOWNFALL, THERE ARE MANY OTHER OBSTACLES BESIDES RICHES THAT WE CAN PLACE BEFORE OUR CREATOR GOD...

MOST OF US HERE AND THOSE WATCHING AT HOME ARE FEELING PRETTY COMFORTABLE AS THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO US!!! BUT I WANT TO TELL YOU THAT RICHES CAN BE A GREAT GIFT..THERE IS

NOTHING WRONG WITH RICHES..IT'S HOW WE USE THEM...I KNOW A NUMBER OF WEALTHY PEOPLE THAT GOD BLESSES BECAUSE THEY USE THEIR RESOURCES TO EVANGELIZE THE LOST..I HAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT...

GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE MANY GIFTS. SADLY MANY CHRISTIAN PEOPLE WHO ARE GIFTED BY GOD IN OTHER AREAS OF LIFE SUCH A GREAT MUSICAL ABILITY, OR GREAT ATHLETICISM, OR WHO ARE CONSIDERED EXTREMELY SMART BY THEIR PEERS, OFTEN CHOOSE TO COMPROMISE WITH THE WORLD NEGATING THE 1ST COMMANDMENT

THERE ARE MANY OF US WHO ARE SO FOCUSED ON OUR JOBS OR BUSINESS'S THAT OUR LONG TERM GOALS HAVE SOMEHOW FAILED TO KEEP JESUS FIRST...WE TOO HAVE COMPROMISED WITH THE WORLD THEREFORE NEGATING THE 1ST COMMANDMENT OF THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GOD'S BEFORE....

SO IN THE SAME VEIN WE CAN USE THE EXAMPLE OF THE CAMEL THROUGH THE SMALL GATEWAY TO THE CITIES.

ARE WE WILLING TO UNLOAD PRIDE, VANITY, WANT OF WORDLY FAME, AND SELFISH DESIRES TO SERVE THE LORD? HAVE WE EVEN PLACED SOME OF OUR FAMILY MEMBERS BEFORE GOD? SADLY, SOMETIMES WE DO..

MOVING ON TO VERSES 26-27 JESUS ANSWERS THE DISCIPLES QUESTIONS OF WHO THEN CAN BE SAVED? (VS. 27), “With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.” JESUS IS TELLING US THAT THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO AS FRAIL HUMAN AGENTS TO SAVE OURSELVES!!.

WE CAN ONLY BE SAVED WHEN WE SUBMIT AND COMMIT OUR LIVES TO HIM AND ASK HIM TO FORGIVE US OF OUR SINS...AND THEN TURN FROM OUR WICKED WAYS...

**WHEN WE DO, OUR LOVE FOR JESUS WILL BE SO STRONG..THAT THE WORLD AROUND US WILL SEE HIM SHINING THROUGH... “I, IF I BE LIFTED UP..”
JOHN 12:32**