



Matthew 19 ESV

16 And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" 17 And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." 18 He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, 19 Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

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Matthew 19 ESV

20 The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?" 21 Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." 22 When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. 23 And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 19 ESV

24 "Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." 25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" 26 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." 27 Then Peter said in reply, "See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?"

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Matthew 19 ESV

24 28 Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

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Big Idea

With God, what seems impossible becomes possible when we surrender everything to Jesus.

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The Merit Ladder

- We cannot climb our way to God - Jesus exposes the limits of self-reliance.
- The young man approaches Jesus with a “merit framework” - He asks, “What good deed must I do?” believing eternal life is earned.
- Jesus challenges the foundation of the question - “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good.”

8

The Merit Ladder

- Jesus exposes the flaw in relying on personal goodness.
- Goodness is not a currency we earn & spend ("Goodness has a source... standing right in front of this man.")
- The young man has kept commandments yet still feels empty.
- He says, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?"- Revealing the insufficiency of performance.

9

The Merit Ladder

- Religion cannot quench spiritual thirst ("Religion is not living water... it is not reaching that place inside of you that's dying of thirst.")

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The Heart Test

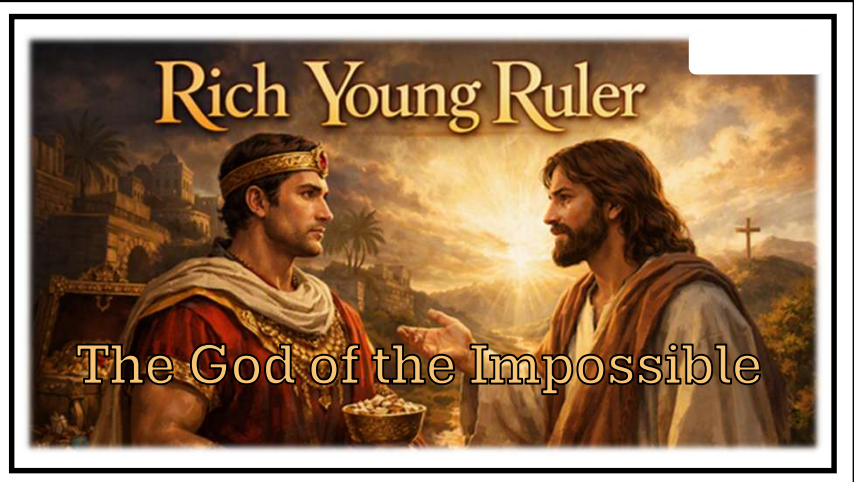
- Jesus lovingly reveals what truly holds our hearts.
- He identifies the real issue - not behavior, but allegiance. ("He reaches past every commandment... and puts his finger on... his wealth.")
- Possessions can possess us ("His possessions were not just the things he owned. His possessions were the things that owned him.")

12

The Heart Test

- Obedience without surrender is self-reliance in religious clothing ("Obedience without surrender is still self-reliance dressed in religious clothing.")
- Jesus does not chase the man or lower the price ("He went away... and Jesus let him go.")
- The door remains open, but Jesus honors the man's choice.
- The kingdom comes on the kingdom's terms, not ours.

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The God of the Impossible

- What is impossible for us is gloriously possible with God.
- Jesus declares the impossibility of self-salvation ("It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle..." – It is deliberately impossible.
- The disciples respond with the right question - "Who then can be saved?"
- They finally see human effort cannot achieve salvation.

15

The God of the Impossible

- Jesus gives the gospel in one sentence ("With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.")
- Salvation is God reaching into the water to rescue the drowning ("A drowning person cannot save themselves... they need someone from outside the water.")
- Following Jesus leads to renewal (personal & cosmic.) - "Palingenesia"

16

Practical Applications

- Rest in God's grace instead of trying to earn His approval.
- Allow Jesus to meet you in the realities of your life today.
- Release anything you are still holding onto that keeps you from trusting Him fully.
- Trust God with the future, even when you cannot control what comes next.
- Believe that your life continues to bear meaningful fruit in God's kingdom.

17

Discussion Questions

- What do you still feel you lack in your walk with Jesus?
- What might you be holding onto that keeps you from fully trusting Him?
- Where have you tried to earn God's favor instead of resting in His grace?
- When have you seen God do something that seemed impossible in your life?
- How can you practice surrender & trust in this season of your life?

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19