

27-10-8
NEWS
NEWMAN

Difficult Scriptures

I. Scripture: Matthew 19:23-24

II. How This Verse Is Misused By Some

Some point to these verses to say that it is a sin to be wealthy. They say these verses state that a rich man cannot enter the Kingdom of God.

III. True Explanation

- A. Christ said it was difficult for a rich man to enter God's Kingdom. He was referring to the example of the rich young man who turned down an opportunity to become one of Christ's disciples because he did not want to give up his wealth (verses 16-22).
- B. In the parallel account (Mark 10:24), Christ emphasized that it was trusting in riches that would keep a rich man out of the Kingdom. Paul showed that the love of money could keep a man from entering the Kingdom of God (I Timothy 6:10). Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare (I Timothy 6:9). They become lustful. The more they get, the more they want. Soon they are more intent on getting riches than on striving to enter the Kingdom of God. Wealth becomes their god (Colossians 3:5).
- C. Christians are to flee the lust of wealth and concentrate on living a godly life and striving to lay hold on eternal life. A Christian can't serve God and mammon (mammon is a Greek word meaning "wealth" or "riches") (Matthew 6:24). Jesus said where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Matthew 6:21).
- D. God is not opposed to wealth. His desire is that we prosper (III John 2). Many of God's servants were wealthy. Joseph was a prosperous man (Genesis 39:2). Job was the greatest man in the East (Job 1:3). Abraham was rich in cattle, silver and gold (Genesis 13:2). These men were wealthy, but they did not put their trust in riches nor seek their own blessings. They obeyed God and were blessed materially by Him, and they will be in God's Kingdom.
- E. It is physically impossible for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, but with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). It is only through God's miraculous help that a rich man -- or anyone else -- can enter God's Kingdom.

