

# **The Poverty of Riches**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 19:23-29.

B. Out of the episode where the rich man asks Jesus about Jesus comes some profound principles about riches.

C. Jesus often taught that it is difficult for the rich to come to salvation. (Matthew 10:38)

## II. Jesus taught that it is impossible for rich people to be saved.

A. It is impossible to be saved when one comes on his or her own human terms. (Matthew 11:12)

B. Jesus discredits all works righteousness systems. (Mark 10:24, Jeremiah 13:24)

C. Man cannot be saved by himself.

D. This impossibility is crystallized in rich people.

1. They have a false security. They tend to feel complacent. (1 Timothy 6:17)

2. They are bound to this world. (1 Timothy 6:6, Mark 4)

3. They are selfish. (Luke 16)

## III. Salvation is not by the will of man, it is by the will of God. (John 1:13, 2 Timothy 2:24)

## IV. Peter sees salvation as abandoning everything and following Christ.

## V. There will be great reward for those who have given everything for Christ. (1 Peter 2)

A. They will rule.

B. They will receive more than they gave up.

C. They will inherit eternal life. (Romans 8, 1 Corinthians 15, Ephesians 2)

**Application Questions:**

1. Why are the rich a picture of the impossibility of being saved on human terms?

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2. What are some other false ways that people say that a person can be saved?

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3. What is the cost of accepting the gospel? Explain.

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