

The Danger Of Riches.
Mark 10:23-27.
Sunday morning, May 11, 2008.

I. Understanding the kingdom of God.

The kingdom is like the King; it has two natures united in one entity.

As the Lord Jesus is one person with two natures, the human and the divine, so is the kingdom of God, and so is the Christian ministry, and so is the Christian life.

- A. It is earthly yet it is heavenly.
- B. It is visible (church and her ordinances) yet it is invisible.
- C. It is outward yet it is inward.
- D. It is tangible yet it is spiritual.

What God has joined together, man must not separate.

A Savior who is only God or only man can be no Savior at all.

A kingdom that is only earthly or only heavenly is no kingdom at all.

A divided kingdom will not stand.

Here is the danger of formalism which embraces only the earthly.

Here is also the danger of Pietism which embraces only the heavenly.

Both must be rejected as equally dangerous heresies.

II. How hard it is... repeated twice in vs. 23,24.

A. The Lord is not talking about the earthly, visible aspects of the kingdom as such. He is especially focused on the heavenly, the inward and spiritual aspects of the kingdom.

- 1. The drinking of the living water John 4:10-14.
- 2. The branch flourishing because of a living connection to the Vine. John 15:1-8.

3. A life lived in true partnership and fellowship with the Lord. John 14:23.

B. The Lord is talking about the religion of the heart.

The heart is like a mansion with many rooms.

In those rooms we house things like:

- 1. Rights or entitlements. Things we believe we are owed.
- 2. Expectations. Things we believe we shall have to enjoy.
- 3. Desires. Things we hope to get our hands on, and labor toward.

C. When riches increase...

- 1. Our rights and entitlements multiply. Money entitles you to many privileges.
- 2. Our expectations grow large. Bigger opportunities open up with more money.
- 3. Our desires grow strong. We want more and bigger and better.

D. Entering the kingdom...

- 1. Means that all our rights and entitlements are made to bow and humble themselves before the *Chief Entitlement*; That is that God is entitled to us with all we have and all we are. "You are not our own..." 1 Cor. 6:19.
- 2. With that comes a shift in expectations. All our earthly expectations are made to give way and bow before the *Chief Expectation*. No longer are our expectations centered in things and people around us, but in the Sovereign God, and in His wise disposing and dealings with us. "My soul, wait silently

for God *alone*, for my expectation is from Him. He *only* is my rock and my salvation. He is my defense, I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength and my refuge is in God.” Psalm 62:5-7.

3. So also with the desires. They are brought to humble themselves and give way to the *Chief Desire*, which is the Lord Himself. There is no greater good; no more desirable object in the universe than God Himself. Partnership with Him in the cause of His kingdom, and fellowship with Him in His Person is the soul’s greatest good.
“Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” Psalm 73:25,26.

III. The impossibility. Vs. 25.

“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

- A. Your entitlements, expectations and desires have your soul on a leash, and they take you wherever they please.
- B. The leash is a threefold cord that is not easily broken, and the richer you are the stronger the leash, for your entitlements are more numerous; your expectations larger and your desires are stronger.
- C. You are made to worship and serve at the altar of your entitlements, your expectations and your desires whether you like it or not. Just try to escape and see how quickly your entitlements, your expectations and your desires have you back in line. And you can not serve God and Mammon.
You are in bondage whether you like to admit it or not.

“Many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping,

that

they are the enemies of the cross of Christ; whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetites, and whose glory is their shame -- who set their mind on earthly things.” Phil. 3:18,19.

IV. The hope. Vs. 27.

“With man this is impossible but not with God...”

- A. Note the bondage you are in and the hopelessness of your condition in terms of remedying it yourself.
- B. Go to the Lord in humility and with confession and petition.
 1. Give yourself to Him as His entitlement. He is your Creator and your Redeemer. He is entitled to you. “Present yourselves...” Rom 12:1.
Become a servant to the Lord and His people.
 2. Ask Him to be your Chief Expectation and leave the how and when and where and what of life to Him. He is your Shepherd.
 3. Ask Him to be your chief desire. Your joy and your enjoyment; your peace and your rest; your hope and your glory; your contentment and your all.
 4. Expect the Lord Jesus and The Father to come and to build their “nest” in your soul. They will set you free and also rearrange the furniture of your soul. John 14:23.