

What the Rich Man Couldn't Earn

Mark 10:17-27

Context: Children who illustrate receiving heaven as a gift (Mark 10:15)

- I. Trusting in good works for eternal life leaves you without hope (Mark 10:17-22).
 - A. The question of the rich young ruler: What must I do to inherit eternal life? (Mark 10:17).
 - ✓ *What must I do?* His question reveals he assumed eternal life must be earned.
 - B. Jesus' question to the rich young ruler: Why do you call me good? (Mark 10:18-19)
 - ✓ *No one is good except God*: The man didn't understand how God measures true goodness.
 - ✓ *You know the commandments*: Jesus was showing him He was trusting in the law to make him righteous.
 - C. The man's answer: Yes, I qualify – I think (Mark 10:20).
 - ✓ *All these I have kept*: The man express that he kept the commandments, yet implies he wasn't sure of heaven.
 - D. The answer of Jesus: No, you don't (Mark 10:21-22).
 - ✓ *One thing you lack...Go, sell, give*: Jesus challenged the man to prove he kept the law perfectly by asking him to give away all his wealth.
 - ✓ *He went away because he had great wealth*: He realized he couldn't measure up to that standard of goodness.
- II. God does the "impossible" when He changes our hearts to understand faith (Mark 10:23-27).
 - A. Jesus declares that it is hard for someone "rich" to enter the kingdom of God (Mark 10:23-25).
 - B. The disciples realize that the way to eternal salvation is hard to grasp (Mark 10:26).
 - C. Jesus says God does the impossible – enables people to understand salvation is by faith, not works (Mark 10:27).