

Ray Comfort Commentary

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Title: The Paradox of the Rich

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Bio: **Ray Comfort is the best-selling author of more than 60 books. He also co-hosts an award winning television program with actor Kirk Cameron.**

It's more than difficult for a rich man to enter Heaven, Jesus said that it's *impossible*. He said "... 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."

When His disciples heard that they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:23-26).

Then the Scriptures goes on to tell of a rich man actually entering the Kingdom of Heaven. He was a short man named name was Zacchaeus, but he wasn't short of cash. The Bible says that he was rich. This little man humbled himself and surrendered to the Savior. Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house."

So, in one breath Jesus says that it's impossible for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, and in the next breath we see him saying that a rich man came to a knowledge of salvation. Isn't that a contraction?

Let's go back and carefully look at what Jesus said, in context. He looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who *trust* in riches to enter the kingdom of God! 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." And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

We are told that the disciples were "astonished" at what He said. So it seems that Jesus was talking about a *literal* camel and a literal needle—something truly impossible. But then Jesus added that with God *nothing* is impossible. That means that He can change the money-loving heart of a rich man, if He so desires.

The fact is, it's "impossible" for *anyone* to enter the kingdom of God without the help of God. The Bible says that there are "none" who seek after God. We hate God without cause. His name is used as a cuss word, and some do the unthinkable—they deny that He even exists, which is extremely foolish in the face of this incredible creation.

So, it takes what is called “grace” to draw us to Him. He softens the hardened heart, opens the closed mind, and changes our wrong direction. He then opens our blind eyes and gives us light so that we can understand the Gospel and be saved whether we are rich or poor.

Speaking of riches, have you ever heard someone say that *money* is the root of all evil? That is one of the most misquoted verses in the Bible. Typically, Hollywood has many times passed the buck and blamed *money* as being evil rather than humanity. However, the buck stops at man, not money. The Bible says that it’s the LOVE of money, that’s the root of all evil.

So, whether you are poor and you *long* to be rich, or you are rich and long to be saved you must realize that we are all poor in God’s eyes. That’s the starting point of coming to a knowledge of salvation and finding everlasting life, which is in Jesus Christ alone. *For Moody Radio, I’m Ray Comfort, and these are my thoughts .*