

53 – Luke 18:18-30 – Money, camels, needles and salvation

... the kingdom of God has come and is in our midst

... Jesus makes it clear there is only one way to heaven.

... what faith looks like

... how it is that people might ever end up in the kingdom of God, under God's perfect rule for all eternity.

Another familiar story

“Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

... expecting Jesus to confirm his place in God's kingdom.

“If Jesus is good...and no one is good but God... then what does this say about who Jesus is?”

The man loved his wealth and put his trust in his great wealth

... he could not serve God if it mean parting with his money.

“How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God, indeed it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God”.

... the misguided ways people have tried to understand this comment.

- a small hole in the wall of Jerusalem
- the word for camel and the word for rope is very similar
- the small door in a big city gate can be called (picture)

... v 27 it is impossible for rich people to enter the kingdom of God

= no one will get to heaven ... unless God does something about it.

Peter pipes up

... they trust Jesus and they have left everything to follow Jesus

... the things they may well have left are made up for in the things that they have gained in following Jesus

For us today

1) Salvation is only possible through God

... people can do nothing to earn their spot in heaven.

2) Money, possessions and following Jesus today

... did not want to put his love of God above his love of his money.

How should a follower of Jesus view their wealth? How should a follower of Jesus use their wealth?

- wealth is not evil in and of itself.
- Salvation is NOT ever found in an empty bank account.

... when are we serve our wealth rather than serving God

... how is the use of your money expressing your trust in Jesus alone?

... what is your heart desire when it comes to obeying Jesus