

Sunday morning

6/4/89 am.

What's Stopping You?

One Day Jesus Spoke to a group of people about the difficulty ^{of} getting saved.

Now Jesus was not saying everyone must be a pauper to be saved, but He did say:

"Great Possessions Can Be a hindrance if love of those possessions is too great & one becomes obsessed with them -"

Open Your Bibles to Matthew 19:23-25 if you will

Let's hear the ~~words~~ ^{words} of Jesus
Matt. 19:23-25

Now this passage comes immediately after the encounter with the Rich Young Ruler / a young man with so much promise -

But also a young man who loved worldly possessions so much that it cost him a place with Jesus.

New Jesus had spoken of Treasures
But not wealth by treasures which
the young man embraced —

The way to have those
Spiritual treasures was
made known by Jesus
"Let God be God"

"But we are told that the man
went away sorrowful, for he
had great possessions —"

I've looked at that word "sorrowful"
and tried to figure what it meant.

"I often wondered if it meant
"He wanted ^{to have} his cake and wanted
to eat it too"

Or perhaps he was sorry because
there was no middle ground
between holding on & jumping
Loose ✓

you know I know that many
today try to find a fence to straddle

They try to find a deal where they ~~do~~ use the middle only -
But dear hearts, it just doesn't work that way where God is concerned.

Look closely and you'll see that Jesus was actually promising the young man a kingdom / But all he could see was a loss

And so it is with money today - "They'll tell you 'It's just too much to give / ~~no~~ exchange for what you receive"

Oh but listen, "They're wrong" Amen

Jesus said: "Lay Aside Your Ambitions" / Lay Aside Your Other Gods"

^{He said} "Let Me Show You what a Real treasure is" - But the young man couldn't see it // His eyes were on worldly things - They were blinded to things that really mattered

So then Jesus spoke of things
that rob people of the blessings
of God — **Those things spoken**
of As "Laid up" for you & me"

① Timothy calls them "Crews" of
Righteousness 2 Tim. 4:8

② Jesus calls them Reveries Matt. 10:42

Paul calls them: Opportunities to
show the Gospel Rom. 2:10

^{then} Writing to the Ephesians, Paul calls
these blessings: "That which ye
shall receive of the Lord Eph. 6:8

Whatever it is or whatever it's
called, it will overshadow
anything of this world one may
have to long endeavor to have Jesus

The word "successful" as used
is Matt. 19:22 means "Heaviness
of Heart" it means "In Deep
Distress" it means "Burdened"

You see it was not that he didn't want to follow Jesus — But that the consideration of emptying himself of riches was too much for ~~him~~ — The young man to think of / His wealth had become his idol / It had become his primary goal in life / ~~his life~~

{ He could have been saved that day by obeying the Lord Jesus, { But he chose to turn away from Jesus, and very likely died ~~lost~~

And I hate to say it but many people are doing the same thing today —

This is why Jesus spoke as He did in Matthew 19: 23-25

— Listen to it Again — (Read it)

Jesus said: "It's very difficult but it's possible"

The Lord: "The Wealthy person has
many wars to fight" Many, many
struggles to face / And it will require
the greatest of efforts to break
away from the idols —

It will take the Grace
of God working Overtaking
to overcome that person of
His or Her Greatest need /
And how to have them met —

I don't know about you, but Money
is not a problem to me / If you
don't have it you sure don't
worry about losing it Amen

But I / Like you have other problems
There are other hindrances
to total commitment Amen

So really now / We best not be
too harsh in our judgment of
the young men until we
get rid of our idols Amen

In Order to Magnify the Difficulty
a Rich man has ~~to~~ Overcoming
the Inimicence / Jesus used a
parable that was very common
Among the Jews of that day —

To denote that a thing was
'Impossible' or 'exceeding difficult'
they would use the term of
A Camel ~~Attempting~~ to go thru
the eye of a Needle —

Now Jesus was not speaking in a
literal sense but a figurative
one / Simply denoting the great
Difficulty of Overcoming Great
earthly Possessions

The term "Rich Man" is also a
figurative one — It speaks of
Anyone who loves worldly
Riches & Blessings & makes
Idols of them —

Someone Asked, "How can things
become Idols to us?" Scripture —

If they take time on grivance
that belongs to God, they become
Idle -

Actually Anyone who becomes
Obsessed with worldly
things Rich or Poor falls
in the category of this
one Jesus speaks of -

Jesus is Teaching that "One who
trusts in anything other than
God will find it very difficult
to be saved. No, He Teaches,
"It's Impossible"

Jesus Why: "For by Grace ye are
saved" Amen -

True Religion is love of God,
Not love of the world -

True Religion is love for
Jesus And His Love Comes Bottom
From for Worldly Possessions.

9/ Oh But how wonderful it is to see
a person with great worldly wealth,
head over heels in love with
Jehovah. ~~He~~ ^{He} may have great
wealth ~~but~~ ^{but} his love for
Jehovah is far superior —

And how wonderful it is to see
what the world calls "A poor man"
willing to give his all for the
Cause of Christ (~~the~~ ^{the} ~~man~~ ^{man} do)

Oh Listen folks "It's not what
we have in our hand that gets
the attention of the heavenly
Father. It's who we have in
our hearts"

Here's the problem:

- ① A man's heart is where his treasure is —
- ② If the treasure is worldly goods,
it will become the primary effort.
- ③ Pride is what ~~is~~ ^{is} obtained
becomes an obsession —
- ④ all their time is taken up by the idol

They become even more the witnesses
to Acknowledge God as the Giver

There is another problem that's
implied here - "Not always", but
often it's very difficult to
obtain wealth without sin
or compromise — without
fraud or covetousness —

But then Jesus offers a ray of
hope — after the disciples had
heard all Jesus said, they
asked "Lord, who can be saved?"

And Jesus says on Tongue's,
"Whosoever will give God
first place in their hearts"

Whosoever will allow
God His rightful place

Whosoever will believe on the
Lord Jesus, and receive Him
as Savior

Oh listen dear hearts, knowing
Ourselves as we do, we would
~~very likely~~ very likely say with the
disciples

Lord, we all have idols/ lead,
we all have things we allow
to come between you & us —
Lead, how could you die
so that we might be saved

And His Answer would be: "Because
I loved you so much, and
because I want you to spend
eternity with me"

Oh you dear hearts, It would be
easier for a Camel to go thru
the eye of a needle than for
anyone of us to be saved by
our works — or to be saved
by paying our way — or even
to be saved by our goodness —

You see "We are all doomed, and
we all deserve to die for our
sins — But Jesus died for
us, making it possible for
the impossible to come about"

The paid on debt

Let me ask that in those
next few minutes that we all
listen carefully —

If you have nothing in your life
that you're putting before God, then
you pray for the best of us —

Are you here in need of releasing
some things ^{from} your life that are a
hindrance? Then ask God to do what
you can't do alone / Renew your
view to God / Give your life back
in dedication —

Are you here lost / never
having accepted Jesus as Lord?
Don't try to be saved on your merits
Nor by what you know / Believe
on the Lord Jesus / Ask Him to
save you & He will — Come
Let me help you —

Need a place to worship
where the Spirit of God dwells?
We invite you to come down —
Facilitators