

Sermon Reflections

Mission Impossible: Your Salvation (Matthew 19:16-26)

Summary: No matter what you do, you cannot save yourself. Jettison self-reliance and humbly rest on Christ to do the impossible — to save your soul.

1. Reject your self-righteous efforts (vv. 16-17)

- What is good? In answering this question, Jesus exposes the faulty assumption of using the works Law (commandments) as a means of justification. How should believers view the Law when considering our relationship to God? In what helpful ways can the Law be used to see personal, indwelling sin?
- In what specific ways is the Law helpful when witnessing to unbelievers?

2. Recognize your sinful failures (vv. 18-19)

- Like the rich young man, have you ever been guilty of self-righteous pride when assessing the motivations behind your good deeds and actions? Read Romans 13:8-10. What should be our motivation?
- Read Matthew 22:34-40. Where is the focus of our love to be directed? How is a thorough understanding and application of the Greatest Commandment helpful in avoiding spiritual pride? How can remembering this be helpful within your inter-personal relationships?

3. Renounce your wayward heart (vv. 20-22)

- The rich young man *treasured* his earthly possessions *and* desired eternal life ... Regardless of their value, we can be tempted to treasure and have contentment in the things of this world. Read the parable in Luke 12:16-21. What does God think of worldly contentment?
- Read Matthew 6:19-21 and compare this to what Christ says about the “treasure in heaven” in v. 19. What are the differences between earthy and heavenly treasures? What would your heart attitude be if you incurred a substantial loss of money or the loss of a treasured possession? Is it possible that they have become a snare? (see 1 Tim 9:9-10) What are some practical ways we can guard our hearts against the snare of money and possessions?

4. Rely upon God to do the impossible - to save you (vv. 23-26)

- Using the analogy of a camel/eye of the needle and a rich man in v. 24, Jesus describes the impossibility of someone gaining their salvation apart from the work of Christ. By trusting only in the finished work of Christ at Calvary, what sin(s) does this help us to guard against?
- How is an attitude of humility and thankfulness a bulwark against the sin of pride?
- List some practical ways to daily cultivate a reliance and trust in God.