

Who Then Can Be Saved?

Matthew 19:16-26

Intro:

- A. **The central message of all Christian denominations is the way to be saved.**
 - 1. All of grace or all of works.
 - 2. Some grace and some works.
- B. **Paul addresses this issue.**
 - 1. He said our salvation is not a mixture.
 - 2. Romans 11:5-6
- C. **In these verses there is revealed the truth.**
 - 1. There is only one plan of salvation.
 - 2. It is a gift from God.

I. What Good Thing Can Men Do?

- A. **The question asked.**
 - 1. good #1 = αγαθος = "worthy of admiration" **v.16**
 - 2. good #2 = αγαθου = neuter of good = "a deed worthy of admiration."
 - 3. This question was asked by a Jew who expected salvation to be granted upon the basis of admirable deeds. Jesus doesn't change the subject but continues it. Based on admirable deeds you should do the following.
- B. **The answer of Jesus.**
 - 1. Why are you calling me good? To flatter me? Or do you believe that I am God? **v.17**
 - 2. enter = εισερχομαι = "to come or go into"
 - 3. life = ζωη = "the breath of life" Not merely existence. Some things exist but have no life, but one cannot have life without existence.
 - 4. keep the commandments
 - 5. keep = τηρω = "observe attentively"
 - 6. commandments = εντολη = "that which has been enjoined." "moral injunctions" "prohibitions"
- C. **The second question, "which".**

1. which = ποιός = what? Of what kind or sort?
Which vs.18a
 2. He asked Him, what sort of commandments?" -
Wms
- D. **The answer of Jesus.**
1. He relates five of the 10 commandments.
Vs.18-19
 2. He then mentions the second of the Great
commandment. Matthew 22:35-40
 3. vs. 40, hang = κρεμαννυμαι = "to be suspended."
- E. **The reply and 3rd question.**
1. "All these things have I kept from my youth
up." **V.20**
 2. kept = "to keep one's self from or as to
anything," "to be on one's guard" "watch
one's self."
 3. "...what lack I yet"
 4. lack = υστερω = "to be last," "behind", "to
come short of or fail of anything," "to be
without"
- F. **The "good" things he must do.**
1. perfect = τελειός = "what has reached its end,
term or limit," "complete," "wanting
nothing."
 2. treasure = θησαυρός = "anything laid up in
store," hence "valuable," "wealth"
 3. He must do three things. These acts would
constitute that good deed worthy of
admiration. 1.) Sell all he had. 2.) Give
to the poor. 3.) Follow Jesus. To these
things gives one, "treasure in heaven", it is
the saved persons reward

II. The Response Of The Young Man.

- A. **"But when the young man heard that saying, he went
away sorrowful:" v.22a**
1. sorrowful = λυπεω = "to be grieved"
 2. "he turned away in great distress."
- B. **"...for he had great possessions."**
1. possessions = κτημα = "what is acquired by
purchase or otherwise, property."

2. This young was a self-made man of great wealth.

III. Jesus Explains Why.

A. **The plain statement of Jesus. v.23**

1. rich = πλουσιος = "abounding in riches"
2. hardly = δυσκολος = "difficult about one's food, hard to please, discontented"
3. The extraordinarily rich find it very difficult to eat what God puts on their plate!

B. **An illustration.**

1. This must agree with the above statement and not disprove.
2. This is based on the thread-needle, the small door in the large door of the city. It was the only way a person could enter after dark.

IV. The Disciples Response.

A. **"When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, who then can be saved?" v.25**

1. exceedingly = σφοδα = "vehemently"
2. amazed = εξιστημι = "to change from one condition to another", "to be beside one's self"
3. "...they were utterly dumbfounded."
4. Wealth was a sign of God's love and blessing to the Jew.
5. saved = σωζω = "to save", "preserve safe"

B. **"But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible..." v.26**

1. beheld = εμβλεπω = "to view with steadfastness and attention."
2. impossible = αδυνατος = "deficient in strength or power," "infirm, weak, unable."
3. It is impossible for a man to save himself by doing some honorable thing.

C. **"...but with God all things are possible."**

1. possible = δυνατος = "strong," "powerful" "able to be done"

2. Man cannot save himself but God has the power to save anyone.