

Wealth Is NOT Always A Blessing From God Or A Reward For Being Good

Mark 10:17-18 [NIV] *“As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No-one is good, except God alone.”*

This young man wanted to be sure he would get eternal life.

So he asked what he could do.

He wanted Jesus to measure and grade his qualifications, or give him some task that he could do to assure his own immortality.

Jesus' question to this young ruler who called him “good teacher” was in essence, “do you know who I am?”

The fact this man ran and knelt suggests both eagerness and respect, but I do not think he really believed Christ to be the Son of God, and the promised Messiah [Saviour].

Mark 10:19-20 [NIV] *“You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honour your father and mother.’” “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”*

There is an indication that this man interrupted Christ's speaking to Him, a sure sign of pride.

Also, he felt he had attained a measure of self-goodness.

Mark 10:21 [NIV] *“Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”*

Christ respected the dedication and enthusiasm, but also saw the pride.

So Christ gave him the opportunity to eradicate this pride from his character.

Mark 10:22 [NIV] *“At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.”*

This was not the answer the rich man was looking for, this was a sacrifice too great for him.

What comes between us and following Jesus Christ?

Very often to test our true dedication God will ask us to come out of our “comfort zone” to follow Him.

Christ did not expect all His followers to sell up everything and give to poor, although we should use our possessions to serve others.

What we must do is to remove all barriers to serving Jesus Christ fully.

Christ will test us to see if our money is our servant or our master!!

Mark 10:23-27 [NIV] *“Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, **“How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”** The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is 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.**” The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”*

Wealth is **not** always a blessing from God, or a reward for being good.

This is a misconception that many Christians still have today.

Wealth is **not** a measure of our faith or partiality on God's part.

As we see from this example wealth can be a hindrance to our entry into the Kingdom of God.

Mark 10:28-30 [NIV] *“Peter said to him, **“We have left everything to follow you!”** “I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “no-one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields, and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.”*

Jesus assured the disciples that anyone who gave up something valuable in this life to serve Him would be well rewarded and receive the gift of eternal life.