

Jesus Talks to the “Rich Young Ruler”, Matthew 19:16-26
The meaning of “Enter the Kingdom of heaven” or “Enter the Kingdom of God”

Found in www.pastornotes.com

February – 2014 – ekb

One day a “Rich Young Ruler” asked Jesus, “Good Master, what good thing shall I do, **that I may have eternal life?**”
 Matthew 19:16, Mark 10:17, Luke 18:18.

Jesus replied, “Why do you call Me good? There is none good, but one, that is, God: but **if you will enter into life**, keep the commandments. Matthew 19:17.

When the young man asked Jesus, “Which?”, (commandments).

Jesus said, “Do no murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not make false witness, honour your father and mother, love your neighbour as yourself.” Matthew 19:18,19.

The young man said, “I have kept all these. What else do I need to do? Matthew 19:20.

Jesus said, “If you want to be perfect, sell your possessions, give to the poor, and you will **have treasure in heaven**: and come follow Me. Matthew 19:21.

The young man went away sorrowful because he had great possessions. Matthew 19:22.

This rich young man loved his riches. His possessions had a powerful, controlling influence in his life.
 We hope that as he thought about what Jesus had said to him, that he changed his mind, and followed the Lord.

Jesus said to His disciples, “It is hard for a rich man to **enter the kingdom of heaven**.” Matthew 19:23.

Jesus said, “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**.”
 Matthew 19:24.

Jesus’ disciples were amazed and said to Jesus, “**Who then can be saved?**” Matthew 19: 25.

Jesus replied, “With man it is impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible.”
 Matthew 19:26.

In Jesus’ talk with the “Rich Young Ruler”, the central issue is “**How to obtain eternal life**”.

This thought is expressed in various ways:

Matthew 19:16, “That I may **have eternal life**.”

Matthew 19:17, “If you will **enter into life**.”

Matthew 19:21, “You shall **have treasure in heaven**.”

Matthew 19:23, “**Enter into the kingdom of heaven**.”

Matthew 19:24, “**Enter into the kingdom of God**.”

Matthew 19:25, “**Who then can be saved?**”

As I read through this passage, of “The Rich Young Ruler”, it seemed to me that the meaning of the statements, “Enter into the Kingdom of heaven”, or “Enter into the Kingdom of God” are equivalent to “Having eternal life”, or “Entering into life”, or “Having treasure in heaven”, or “Being saved”.