


What is eternal life?

MATTHEW 19:16 - 22

- Matthew 19, Mark 10, and Luke 18 all tell the story of the rich man seeking eternal life
- The Church says that eternal life comes by placing our trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior, and then upon death having an eternal afterlife with God
- This was NOT something that the rich man or the disciples knew anything about, yet



WHY DID JESUS TELL
the rich young ruler
HE COULD BE SAVED
BY OBEYING THE
COMMANDMENTS?

Matt. 19:17

- Charity was a high virtue, and the wealthy were expected to be generous
- Only after telling the rich man to obey the Law does Yeshua say “follow Me”
- Not either/or Obey the Law AND follow Me!
- The gentile Church says that to obey the Law AND follow Christ is trying to “work our way to Heaven”



- Christ taught obedience to the Law in Matt.5:17 – 19
- Romans 2 and 3 are detailed about the place of the Law in the life of a Believer Rom. 2:7 -8, 13
- James, brother of Jesus James 2:17 -20, 24
- The Law is the beginning of the faith journey; following Christ is the culmination
- One apart from the other is incomplete



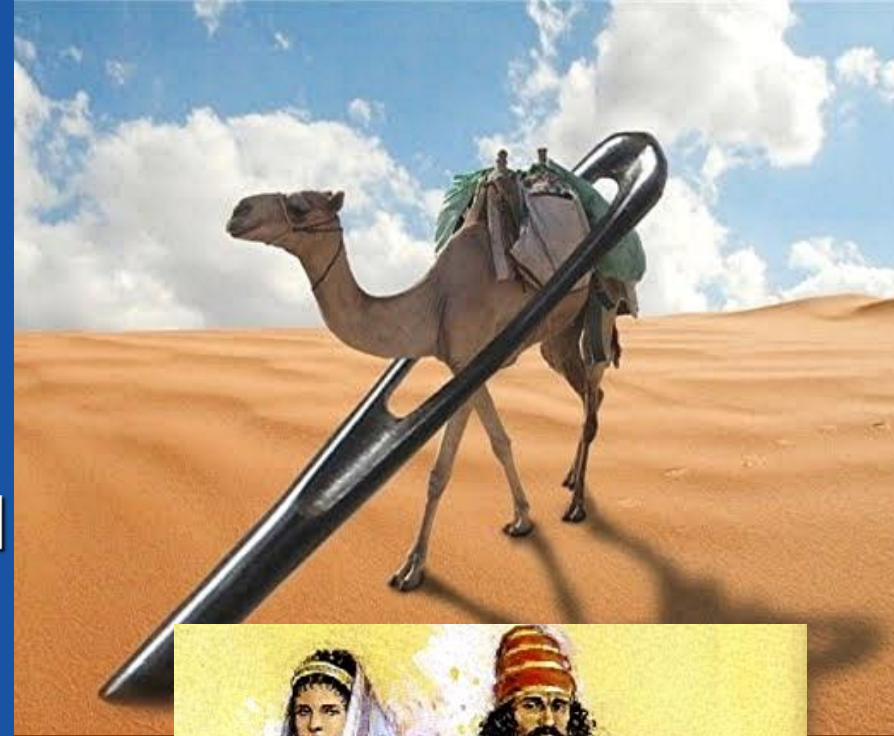
WEALTH AS AN OBSTACLE

- Rich man could not give whole-hearted obedience to Jesus
- Was this a call to poverty?
- Yeshua's conversation with the rich man was not an all-encompassing proverb about wealth
- Wealth can provide a false security



TINIEST VS. THE LARGEST

- “..camel ...through the eye of a needle...”
- No evidence of a gate called The Eye of the Needle
- Camel the largest land animal of the Middle East
- Needle eye, very tiny
- Yeshua was summarizing His conversation with the rich man
- Wealthy were privileged and thought to have divine favor





What is Salvation?

What is the Christian Doctrine of Salvation?

- Abundance a sign of Heavenly Blessing Deut. 28
- The thought: if a blessed rich man can't get into the Kingdom, how can a poor (not blessed) man get in?
- Yeshua's answer: NO ONE CAN! But there is hope because all things are possible with God
- **Sozo** = to be rescued from destruction or kept safe
- Christian doctrine is to be saved means to have our sins forgiven
- This was NOT what the disciples were thinking it meant

- Yeshua sits on His throne in a re-generated (re-created) earth
- At the same time, the 12 Disciples sit as Judges on their thrones
- Everyone that left everything behind to follow Him will get 100 times more (an expression)
- God is not done with Israel!
- The Kingdom of Heaven brings with it a reversal of fortunes



Revelation 21: New Heaven & new Earth

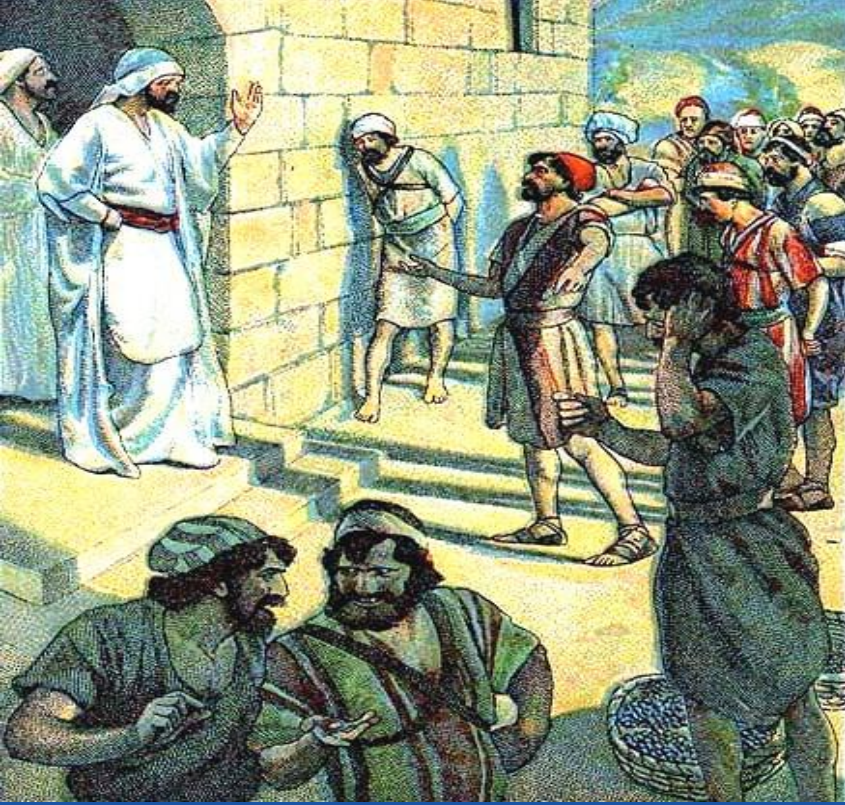


PARABLE OF THE FAIR FARMER

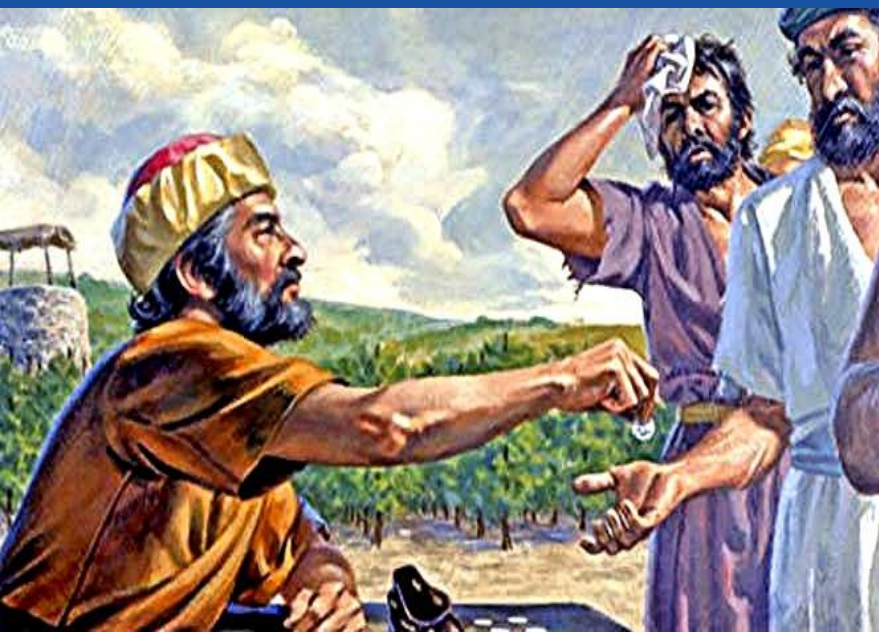


- Matthew chapter 20 begins with a Parable about what the Kingdom of Heaven is like
- A farmer was usually a well-to-do landowner
- A vineyard was a long understood symbol for Israel
- Farmer agreed to pay some men 1 denarius for a day's work... Not generous, but fair
- Later he hired more workers, then again, and still again, and then finally only an hour before the sun set

THE GRUMBLING WORKERS



- Men were not lazy; they waited each day at the market square to be hired
- The farmer was doing the hiring himself; unusual
- The steward pays the men, the last to work first, and the first to work last
- They all got the same pay
- This seemed totally unfair to the men who had worked the longest



WAS THE FAIR FARMER UNFAIR?

- Yeshua's listeners would have identified with the grumbling laborers!
- A *Chamsin* was blowing, making the matter of fairness even more acute
- The Farmer says he paid as he promised, so that's not unfair
- ***“Thus the last ones will be first, and the first last”***
- Parable was designed to shock the listener



Kingdom of Heaven



- Parable's moral: In the Kingdom of Heaven, a reversal of standards and status of the present age will occur
- Many allegories possible, but most likely they miss the single point Yeshua is making
- Brad Young, *"...the Fair Employer is usually viewed as... the message of grace in Christianity... contrasted.. to works in Judaism..."*