

Following the King — Sermon 7

The Currency of the Kingdom: What Heaven Values Most - Matthew 19:16–26 (NKJV)

Series Recap → Transition: From Call to Currency

We've been walking with the King:

- **The Call** (Matt 4): “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They left nets for destiny.
- **The Constitution** (Matt 5–7): On the mountain He established heaven's code of culture.
- **The Commission** (Matt 10): He empowered disciples to bring heaven to earth.
- **The Conflict** (Matt 16): Peter's confession met the cross—glory always carries a price.
- **The Climax** (Matt 17): His glory shone on the mountain, His power worked in the valley.
- **The Community** (Matt 18): He taught us how to live together under heaven's rule—humility, protection, pursuit, reconciliation, forgiveness.

Now in Matthew 19-20, Jesus steps from the mountain of revelation into the marketplace of evaluation. He begins to ask every follower: What do you truly value? What currency are you using to measure life?

Matthew 19:16-26 (NKJV) - Now behold, one came and said to Him, ‘Good Teacher, **what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?**’ So He said to him, ‘Why do you call Me good? No one is good but one, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.’ He said to Him, ‘Which ones?’ Jesus said, ‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ The young man said to Him, ‘All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?’ Jesus said to him, ‘If you want to be perfect, go, **sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven;** and come, follow Me.’ But when the young man heard that saying, **he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.** Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that it **is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.** And again, I say to you, 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.’ When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, ‘**Who then can be saved?**’ But Jesus looked at them and said to them, ‘**With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.**’”

1. The Mispriced Man — The Rich Young Ruler

This man had morality, money, and manners—but not mastery.

In rabbinic culture, wealth was a sign of favor. Jesus flips the assumption: **Heaven's value system measures surrender, not success.**

- The Greek word **teleios** (“perfect”) means complete or undivided. **Jesus exposed a divided heart.**
- **Christ bids us cast away not the wealth but the passions that cleave to it.**

Heaven's currency is obedience, not ownership!

- You can't follow the King while financing your own throne.
- He asked for eternal life but refused eternal lordship.

Transition: *From the mispriced man, Jesus moves to correct the mistaken measure—what we call success.*

2. The Mistaken Measure — The Eye of the Needle

Key Verse (NKJV): **“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)**

- This Hebrew idiom meant impossible.
- Jesus wasn’t talking about a small gate; He was talking about the futility of human effort.

Salvation is not moral achievement; it’s divine intervention. “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” (v 26)

Grace doesn’t lower the standard—it carries us over it.

- Grace doesn’t help you climb—it lifts you through.
- **The gate of heaven is too narrow for pride to squeeze through, yet wide enough for repentance to run through.**
- Salvation is not God improving the good—it’s God resurrecting the dead.

Transition: And with that truth established, Jesus teaches the math of mercy—the shocking economics of grace.

3. The Math of Mercy — The Laborers in the Vineyard (20:1–16)

Key Verse (NKJV): So, the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen. (Matthew 20:16)

The parable describes a landowner who pays all his workers the same wage—whether they labored all day or for one hour.

To a first-century audience this violated justice, but Jesus revealed grace:

God rewards according to relationship, not résumé.

- In the Torah (Leviticus 19:13), wages had to be paid daily showing God's concern for the poor.
- Jesus elevates this: God gives daily bread not based on hours but on His heart.
- Augustine wrote, "Grace is not measured by time but by love."

God's generosity offends human fairness. Grace is not fair it is better than fair - Heaven's payroll runs on mercy, not minutes.

Transition: As the disciples process that, Peter blurts out the question in every heart: "We have left all—what do we get?" Jesus answers with the miracle of multiplication.

4. The Miracle of Multiplication — Leaving All for His Name (19:27-29)

Key Verse (NKJV): **And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.**

- **This is not about deprivation - it's about divine exchange.**
- The phrase “for My name's sake” (Greek heneka tou onomatos mou) means “for the sake of My authority and reputation.”
- Acts 2:45 records the early believers “sold their possessions and goods...as anyone had need.” They saw giving not as loss but as seed.
- **He who possesses Christ cannot be poor.**

Loss for Christ is never subtraction - it is investment. Whatever you release for His Name multiplies in His Kingdom. Heaven always remembers what earth forgets you gave.

Transition: Jesus closes the teaching with the meaning of value—heaven's exchange rate.

5. The Meaning of Value — Heaven's Exchange Rate

Key Verse (NKJV): But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. (Philippians 3:7)

All through Scripture, God re-prices reality:

STRENGTH becomes SERVICE. POWER becomes PURITY. WEALTH becomes WORSHIP. POSITION becomes POSTURE.

Rabbinic Wisdom: “The humble in spirit is greater than the conqueror of cities.” (Pirkei Avot 4:13)

- Humility is heaven's legal tender.
- Faith spends what fear tries to save.
- Generosity is the currency of glory.
- You can't take it with you, but you can send it ahead.

Conclusion — Heaven's Economy

When we stand before the King, He will not total what we earned but what we exchanged, temporary for eternal, self for Savior.

The world says climb; heaven says kneel. The world says keep; heaven says give. The world says be first; heaven says serve.

Church...every one of us is trading something right now.

- We are trading time for treasure, effort for approval, and sometimes our peace for what doesn't satisfy.
- But Jesus asked, "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?" (Matthew 16:26 NKJV).
- That is the real question today: what are you gaining, and what is it costing you?

The rich young ruler walked away sorrowful because he valued the wrong currency. Heaven's economy is different - it does not measure by what you keep but by what you surrender.

Maybe it's not money holding you—it's pride, pain, or control. But the King is calling: "Come, follow Me." Trade what is temporary for what's eternal. Trade what is in your hands for what is in Mine." This is your moment to make the exchange.

So right now - if you're ready to give Him everything you've been clinging to - come to this altar. Kneel before the King. Because the moment you let go, heaven goes to work. You trade what you have—and gain Who He Is.