

# **“Reality of Kingdom Rewards”**

## **Matt. 19:16-30**

**intro.** Retirement planning industry – cf. short-sighted (e.g. 30 years vs. eternity)  
Most of us have never truly considered the subject of rewards described in the Bible. If we understand the reality, the reason, and the resources of rewards + believe God’s promises it will change how we live today in light of eternity. Do you want to know how you can change your eternal experience?

**Theme verse: “But without faith *it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him*” [Heb. 11:6].**

### **Discussion Qs**

**1. How would life be different if people knew that everything they did that was motivated by love for God would be richly rewarded for eternity?**

**2. What are some of the obstacles to believing that God is a rewarder?  
Also consider that the extent of rewards and the concept of eternity are so difficult for us to grasp [like the extent of the national debt].**

**3. How would your life be different if you knew that everything that you did that was motivated by love for God would be richly rewarded for eternity?  
a. Do you have an investment strategy that is forecasting greater dividends than God’s rewards?**

**4. Review Heb. 11:6 But without faith *it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*” What are you learning from this verse?**

**5. Consider the account of the rich young ruler. Can you relate to the conflict between loving God and this world? How would you recommend resolving that conflict?**

**Pastor Bruce Zachary**  
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**Subject: The Reality of Kingdom Rewards**

**Object: Live for the King and His rewards**

### **A. The Promise of Rewards [Matt. 19:16-29]**

**1. Conflict between loving God and this world [16-20]** 16Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” 17So 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.” 18He 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,’ 19‘Honor your father and *your* mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” 20The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?”

**v.16-20** The rich young ruler wants to know how to experience eternal life. Jesus confronts the reality that he may love his wealth more than God or others. The list of commandments flow from the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Ten Commandments [Ex 20] + Lev.19:18 that deal with our relationships with others (& they flow from our relationship w/God).

## **2. Call to follow Christ & exchange earthly treasure for heavenly rewards [21]**

**21** 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: command to sell all possessions is not a general command. Exhort to give to poor and exchange earthly treasure for heavenly. And follow Christ.

**a. Challenge to live for Christ & Kingdom Rewards reveals the conflict & first love [22] But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.**

**i.** Sorrowful – had to come to grips with the fact that he loved this world and his possessions more than he realized and more than God. Also the **lack** [20] (discontent) he was experiencing would continue.

**ii.** Jesus describes difficulty in making Christ Lord over your life & wealth [23-26]

**3. Christ's rewards are your best investment [27-29] 27** Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" **28** So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. **29** 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. Peter follows up re the rewards in light of the disciples' actions to follow Jesus [27]. Jesus affirms 100-fold return & eternal life [29]

## **B. What to expect at your evaluation [coming to Jesus meeting]:**

**1. God the Father will fully evaluate your life on earth [Lu. 14:12-14]**

**2. Jesus will fully evaluate your works [2 Cor. 5:10 & Rom 14:10-11]**

**2Cor. 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

**3. Evaluation will be based on the nature + motive of works done [I Cor. 3:13]**

**1 Cor. 3:13** each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

**a.** Not all works are good – ex: motive ( I Cor. 3:12 & 5:10)

**4. Rewards only for works done after conversion [I Cor. 3:10-11]**

**a.** Good noble + kind works that are done prior to conversion are not rewarded, because they cannot be motivated for love of Christ or God's glory

**5. Rewards based on individual works [Prov. 24:12]**

**Prov. 24:12** And will He *not* render to *each* man according to his deeds?

## **C. Understanding Works: The Basis for Rewards**

**1. We are saved by faith [Eph. 2:8-9] for good works [Eph. 2:10]**

**a.** Works are not the means of salvation but faith in Christ

**b.** Better to be in Heaven with no reward than Hell, but how much better to be in Heaven with eternal rewards earned during this life.

**2. Love is the primary motivation for good works not rewards, but rewards are a Christ-centered motivation.**

a. Rewards are not a carnal or bad motivation.

**\*\* how have the promise of rewards impacted my life?**

## **Pastor Bryan Carver Lewis Campus**

subject: the reality of Kingdom rewards

object: live for the King and eternal reward

### **1. The Promise of Eternal Rewards (16-21)**

**a. conflict between loving God and loving this world**

**b. call to follow Christ and lay up treasure in heaven**

**Col 3:23-24; James 1:12; Matt 6:6; Lk 12:33-34; 1 Pet 5:4; 1 Cor 3:8; 2 Tim 4:8; 1 Tim 6:18-19; Rev 22:12; 1 Cor 3:14; Matt 10:42; Matt 5:12; Heb 10:34-36**

### **2. The Supremacy of Eternal Rewards (22-30)**

**a. courage to sacrifice now to invest eternally**

**b. confidence in the superiority of our future reward**

### **3. The Judgement of Eternal Rewards**

**a. When? after the rapture (Rev 22:12; 2 Tim 4:8)**

**b. Where? the Bema seat (2 Cor 5:10; Rom 14:10)**

**c. Who? only believers (2 Cor 5:10)**

**d. What? our works and motives (2 Cor 5:10; 1 Cor 4:5)**

**e. Why? the reward of everlasting ever-increasing enjoyment of God (Ps 16:11; 1 John 3:2; Rev 22:4)**