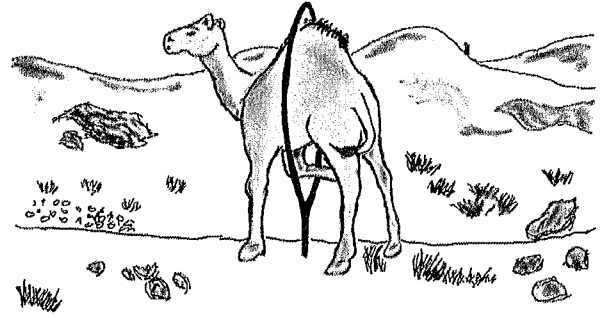


How Do I Get to Heaven?

1. Not by Trusting Self
2. Not by Trusting Wealth
3. But by Trusting Jesus



Introduction

- **Vs. 17b.** IOW, how I get hvn? Can you think of more imp qstn than that? I cannot. I think it's single most imp qstn we all have to wrestle with in this life. It's one those big qstns of life, like: Why I exist? What's purp life? What truth? Who God? Only Xianity offers real answr to any these qstns, esp most imp one: how I get hvn? I know there's smthng bynd this mortal life; and I know smday I'm going die. So how get hvn? That's what rich man in today's Gos asking J: **vs. 17b.** And: so many misundrstdngs & false notions re: how get hvn, who gets hvn, who doesn't, why some do/don't. So here J helps this man/us undrstd right/wrong answers to that all-imp qstn: how get hvn?

Not by Trusting Self

- This guy: on mission find out; wants know. **Vs. 17a;** literally on knees, begging J tell him: **vs. 17b.** And J starts by quoting 10 Coms (murdr, adltry, steal, honor prnts). And then you just cringe when hear man's respns; actly: **vs. 20.** What! Really?! Serious?! Kept all coms? Never disobd prnts, hated, lusted, lied – ever? Really? See man's prob? Not being honest w/himself; thinking too highly himself; focusing on self, trusting in self. Ev time speaks, it's just: I, I, I. **Vs. 17; 20.** “J, I'm good prsn; I've done right thngs; I desrv etrn life; and now I want know what I need do so I can have it.” He was trusting in himself.
- But you cannot get hvn by trusting in yrself, bec your very self is corrrptd by sin. That's true: this guy, & ev one us. God says can't get hvn unless have no sin. So when you look at coms like this guy and think, “No prob; I'm pretty good prsn; I keep coms” – just deceiving self. Remem what J in **Mk 7: “It is fr w/in, out of a prsn's hrt, that evil thghts come – sexual immrlty, thft, mrdr, adltry, greed” (21-22),** & whole host other sins. Come fr here: fr sinful, unhlthy hrt – which we all have, bec we've inhrted it fr our prnts, going all way back to A&E. Called orig sin; and we're born w/it; and thruout life, we act on it – disobey God in cntlss ways. You know true! And if you ignore, or minimize, or compare self to others you think worse, or if convince self that God owes you for being fairly decent prsn – then you've already forgttn wrds we spoke in confssn at beg/service, fr 1 Jn 1: **“If we claim to be w/o sin, we deceive selves & truth not in us” (8).** Truth: no matter how good you may think you are, you cannot save self, bec your sin stands as barrier btwn you/God. That's why you cannot get hvn by trusting self.

Not by Trusting Wealth

- Nor, by trusting wlth. This man very wlthy. So when J: **vs. 21c-22.** And not wrong have great wlth. Abrhm, Job, Nicdms, Dvd, Solmn – had great wlth. And God: gave it to them. And not like J coms all ppl of all time: sell all possns, live in povrty. Discs ownd boats/nets; Pt: house – not told sell. But danger having great wlth: can easily become the god in which we trust – ironic, bec lot Amrcn currency is literally stamped with “In God We Trust.” Which God: God on coin or god of coin? \$/possns/wlth have way of: consuming us, knockng God off top spot in hrts, becoming idol we worship. That's what happnd this man: \$ became his god; couldn't let go of it; trusted wlth inst God. That's why J says to him: if want follow me, first get priorities strght; get rid of wlth-idol; then follow. J: trying destroy \$-god in hrt.
- And that's what J wants do inside of you, as well – destroy \$-god in your hrt. Wld you consdr self wlthy prsn? Maybe not, if envsnng billionrs like Warren Buffet, Elon Musk, Taylor Swift – very wlthy! Hwvr when consdr luxuries you enjoy in this country & at this time/hstry, luxs which far surpass what most other humans've enjoyed for most/hstry/wrld, and which still far surpass what many ppl in wrld enjoy today – yeah, I'd say we're wlthy! In fact, it'd be disrspectfl to God to complain re what we don't have when we have so much! J's words of warning here re wlth have got to resonate w/us; we have take this

to hrt! \$: dangerous! It's a wndrfl, pwrfl tool to accmplshng all kinds/good; but also dangerous. When \$ becomes your god, it destroys faith/Xp & keeps you out hvn. J once: **"No one can serve 2 mstrs. Either you'll hate/one & love/other, or you'll be devotd/one & despise/other. You cannot serve both God & money"** (Mt 6:24). Paul same thing: **"Those who want get rich fall into tmptn & a trap and into many foolish/harmful desires that plunge ppl into ruin/dstrctn. For the love/money: a root all kinds evil"** (1 Tim 6:9-10). And here, J: **vs. 23b, 25a** (real camel, literal needle-eye; not some suppsd ancient city gateway called eye/needle; nvr existd), **25**. Saying: not just hard; impssbl! When you let \$ become your god, when trust wlth, then truly is impssbl get hvn.

But by Trusting Jesus

- So, back to qstn: **vs. 17b**; how get hvn? Or, as discs asked in frstrtn/confsn: **vs. 26b** – Can anyone hvn? Truly impssbl? Well, if trust self/wlth, then yes! J: **vs. 27**. So how get hvn? Not by trusting self/wlth; only by trusting J; only by placing all your faith/confdnc/trust in CJ as Sav. That's how you get hvn!
- There's beautiful little detail here I don't want you miss: **vs. 21a**. J loved this man, wantd him be saved! And J loves you, too; wants you be w/him frvr in hvn! That is why J came this earth: to be your Sav! J actly did obey all coms he mentions here – **vs. 19**. Kept them perfly – in actions, but also in words, and even in thghts. J obeyed God all/time, ev day, so could actly say **vs. 20b**. J was sinless, for a reason: earned hvn for you, bec knew you nvr could. And instead of keeping glory/hvn for self, J loved you so much: gave you hvn as free gift/grace. Loved you so much: endured agony/cross, to pay for all sins, incl sin: greed, coveting, & \$-loving. For all times we've complaind re \$, or faithlssly worried re \$, or worshpd \$ as idol, or trusted our wlth to save us, instd of Sav to save us – for all these sins J has made full payment by bld shed/cross. This: Xianity; Xian Gos, that **Jn 3:16** – IOW, will go to hvn – not by trusting self/wlth, but by trusting J as Sav.
- And that's what J was trying tch this man. Notice: guy nvr called J "Sav;" called him **"good tchr."** And J didn't really like being called good tchr – **vs. 18** – bec that's all the man thght of him as: only good tchr, not Sav/sin. But you will nvr make it to hvn if you think of J only as good tchr and not as Sav/sin.
- After this rich man went away sad, nvr hear fr him again; nvr told if came faith. I'd like bel he thought long/hard re this incident w/J and reprioritized his life and came to see J as Sav. But we just don't know. But here's what we do know: 1) trusting in self/wlth will nvr get you into hvn; 2) CJ loves us, paid for our sins, and only by trusting in J and his sacrfc/cross do we inherit etrn life. That's how we get to hvn!

Mark 10:17-27

¹⁷ 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?"

¹⁸ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'"

²⁰ "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

²¹ 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."

²² At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

²⁴ The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁶ The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"

²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."