

Why did Jesus exhort(촉구하다) the rich young man to sell his possessions and give the money to the poor?

Was Jesus encouraging him to earn heaven by being more charitable? Or was he asking the man to root out(근절시키다) self-reliance(자키의존)? Following laws doesn't get you into the kingdom of God; radical trust and faith in Jesus do.

“It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God” (Matthew 19:24). This was a hard saying for the disciple to grasp. Wealth was considered by many to be a sign of God's favor, and that means that the rich young man must have been blessed by God. So if this fellow, who clearly enjoyed God's blessing, could not enter the kingdom, who could?

Tradition tells us that the “eye of a needle” was a very small gate into the city of Jerusalem. In order for camels to make it through that gate, they had to lower themselves to their knees and crawl through. They also had to rid themselves of any excess baggage that got in their way. Jesus was asking the man to give up his material attachments, just as the camel needed to let go of its excess baggage. He was asking the man to trust in God for entrance into the kingdom of heaven, not in the blessings of his wealth.

Let's take a lesson from the camel! If we want to enter eternal life, we need to lower ourselves to our knees in prayer and humility. We need to acknowledge the sovereignty(통치권) of Christ and the power of his salvation - a salvation that only comes through faith and baptism. Only Jesus can redeem us and bring us into his holiness.

So let's get rid of whatever extra sinful baggage is hindering our spiritual growth. Let's commit our lives to Jesus anew every morning, confessing our need for him and letting go of any sense of self-sufficiency that still clings to us. Let's strive for the perfection that comes only by faith in Jesus so that we, too, can know his power to save and sanctify.

*“Jesus, you are my only hope. I commit myself to you as Lord and Savior. Help me to become the person you want me to be.”*

▶ Ezekiel 28:1-10

(Psalm) Deuteronomy 32:26-28, 30, 35-36